Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-93-223 *22 November 1993*

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Cuba

Brigade To Tighten Security Near 'Yankee' Base

FL2011022293 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] The strengthening of guard services and the tightening of security at the border of the Yankee base were the main topics of discussion at a meeting of the party at the Antonio Maceo Border Brigade in Guantanamo Province.

To guarantee a comprehensive guard service and security at the demarcation line is the reason for the existence of the brigade. Time imposes new demands. This is why guard services and security must be steadily strengthened in the area to prevent illegal departures and other actions that could bring grave consequences to our country.

In recognition of the humanitarian action taken by Lieutenant (Elvis Brucht), who was maimed on 5 November by a mine as he was trying to rescue several traitors who were crossing a minefield in their attempt to leave the country, the delegates to the meeting of the border brigade recommended that (Brucht) be admitted to their ranks.

The delegates also decided to contribute to producing food to become self-sustaining in this area next year. They also emphasized the leading role played by Communist militants in improving the maintenance and operation of the means whereby the border guard fulfills its delicate mission.

Castro Presents Jose Marti Order to Jiang Zemin

FL2211024893 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at the presentation of the Jose Marti Order to PRC President Jiang Zemin, at Revolution Palace, Havana on 21 November—recorded]

[Text] Dear Comrade Jiang Zemin, president of the People's Republic of China, distinguished members of the Chinese delegation, guests: China is a country with a very ancient culture. No other civilization in the world has lasted so long on the same soil. China's contributions to knowledge and human history have been extraordinary. Just because it is ancient, however, does not mean that China is declining. On the contrary, China is being reborn. China is beginning anew, and with greater vigor than ever in history, as an eternal China.

The most remarkable thing in that long history is the fact that China is no longer the China of the feudal lords, nor the constant victim of the aggressions of colonial and imperial powers. Henceforth, no one will be able to scorn and humiliate China. This is the new China that emerges with the victorious national liberation struggles and the socialist revolution.

Everything was forged through feats of heroism and long marches, which were exploits unsurpassable in human history. Everything was carried out under the immortal ideas of Marxism-Leninism and their wise application [words indistinct] of China. Eternal glory to the Communist Party, to its founders and leaders, and to the heroic population capable of such a feat. Glory and honor, too, and most rightfully so, to the great revolutionary strategist, Mao Zedong.

The path China has had to travel following liberation has been long, difficult, and risky in a world where imperialism exercised and still exercises power and hegemonic influence. The Chinese Communists, as they themselves admit, also had to struggle against their own mistakes. It is up to them, not us, to judge that. What is an unquestionable and certain fact is that the Chinese people are indissolubly united around their revolutionary vanguard today. Colossal successes have been attained. The era of disasters and famines has been left behind. Only socialism could have been capable of the miracle of feeding; clothing; providing with footwear, jobs, education, and healthcare; raising life expectancy to 70; and providing decorous shelter for more than 1 billion human beings in a minute portion of the planet's arable land.

Thanks to such a feat at this difficult and critical time [words indistinct] for the world's peoples, in China over one-fifth of humanity remains under the banner of socialism. China claims, and most rightfully, its right to build a socialism with Chinese peculiarities, and aspires to seeing the peaceful return of its territories of Macao, Hong Kong, and Taiwan to the nation, in compliance with international agreements, norms, and rights, adopting the intelligent and realistic principle of one nation/two systems.

China is resolutely opposed to any meddling whatsoever in its internal affairs or those of any other country. China considers itself—and this honors us—a Third World country, and is interested in the development of that Third World, as being an element essential to the progress, stability, and peace of the world of the future. These just aspirations have our full support. China is moving forward and making solid progress. This satisfies and encourages us all.

It is a great honor, Comrade Jiang Zemin, to have the friendship of the Chinese people. Your visit, which will undoubtedly go down in history as an incomparable gesture of friendship and brotherhood, is a great honor. For this reason, and for your services and faithfulness to the cause of socialism—a cause to which you devoted your life from a very early age, when the struggle against foreign occupation was still underway—our people have wished, and our Council of State has decided, to present to you our revolutionary fatherland's highest decoration, the order that bears the beloved and immortal name of Jose Marti. Please receive it as one more proof of the feelings of admiration and affection of the Cuban people

toward China, its beautiful history, and its heroic people. Thank you very much. [applause]

Jiang Thanks Castro for Order

FL2211030093 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Speech by PRC President Jiang Zemin upon receving the Jose Marti Order at Revolution Palace, Havana on 21 November—recorded, in Chinese with passage-by-passage translation into Spanish]

[Text] I thank the Cuban Government and particularly Comrade Fidel Castro for bestowing the distinguished Jose Marti Order upon my person. In this, I find not only an honor to my person, but also a genuine expression of the affection of the Cuban Government and people toward the Chinese.

More than 30 years ago, the Cuban people, under the leadership of Comrade President Fidel Castro, conducted an arduous struggle and attained the triumph of the Revolution. Nowadays, they continue struggling heroically to preserve national sovereignty and independence and to build Cuba. This is highly admired by the Chinese people.

The friendship that joins the Cuban and Chinese peoples has deep roots and we are convinced that with the joint efforts of the two sides, the relations of friendship and cooperation between China and Cuba will develop much more. Thank You. [applause]

PRC Ambassador on Relations, Impact of Jiang Visit

FL1911220293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] We can feel happy about the good relations Cuba and the PRC maintain in all spheres, the Chinese ambassador said in Havana during an interview he gave our reporter, Gisela Bel Heredia.

[Bel] President Jiang Zemin's visit to Cuba could help, in that it could result in greater possibilities for the relations between the two nations, said Chinese Ambassador Xu Yicong in this capital.

[Begin recording] [Xu Yicong] The very fact of a visit at this level is already going to be something very significant, and so, through the reports of such a high-level visit, people are going to pay more attention, are going to think more. And that, too, is surely also going to reach economic and commercial spheres.

[Bel] At present, Mr. Ambassador, what are the spheres supported by Cuban-Chinese relations?

[Xu Yicong] The areas in which there are Cuban-Chinese relations are very extensive. I would say that we have relations that extend to all areas, all spheres. We have good political relations; and as I was telling you, we also have many commercial and economic relations, ties. And we also have exchanges at other levels, including sports, culture, education, science, and technologies.

In international spheres—as you know—within organizations and at international forums the representatives of the two countries, the offices that represent our two countries before those international bodies, hold very frequent consultations, and in many cases give each other mutual support, mutual help. [end recording]

[Bel] That was the Chinese ambassador speaking about the visit to Cuba of China's president.

Fidel Castro Attends UNEAC Congress 21 Nov

FL2111222993 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2030 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Again this morning, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro returned to the work sessions of the Fifth Congress of the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists [UNEAC], which ends today at the Convention Center. The day began with a special speech by Jose Luis Rodriguez, minister president of the State Committee for Finance, regarding the application of economic measures indispensable to the nation's survival under the current circumstances. In that connection, he discussed at length the significance of decisions such as decriminalizing the possession of hard currency by the population, self-employment, and the new way of managing state activity in agriculture.

The head of Finance explained that other measures will have to be taken quickly—although without undue haste—such as measures for financial streamlining [saneamiento monetario]; and he reiterated that the search for novel formulas is necessary for progress.

Rodriguez told the UNEAC's Fifth Congress that the steps taken toward restructuring the economy also require a political work of persuasion, that their objectives must be constantly (?explained.) After reiterating his confidence in the moral reserves of our people, he stressed that what is being done is aimed at consolidating the possibility of continuing to build socialism, for even though sidepaths may occasionally be taken, the road is very clear.

The position of Cuba's top economist gave rise to many comments by the delegates, who expressed diverse concerns that exist within the society. Among these, historian Eusebio Leal, who affirmed that changes to benefit efficiency and merit are imperative. He stressed: If we do not ask for further revolution, the country will not survive.

UNEAC's national committee gathered this morning to elect its president, as well as executives of the five associations—performance arts; plastic arts; writers; music; and radio, television, and film. The presentation of UNEAC's governing organ will be made at the congress's evening session.

Also announced for today are special speechs by Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government and by Armando Hart, minister of culture. Reports by the five work committees that met yesterday are to be presented. The delegates to the UNEAC's Fifth Congress will also analyze a conceptual document entitled, "Presence and Functions of Cuban Culture Under the Current Circumstances." They will trace the lines of work they intend to follow for the next five years.

'Presiding Over' UNEAC Congress

FL2011155893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Fidel is presiding over the meetings of the Fifth Congress of the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists [UNEAC]. Fidel is at the opening of the UNEAC Congress.

Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and president of the Councils of State and of Ministers, is attending, this morning, the opening of the UNEAC's Fifth Congress at the Convention Center. UNEAC President Abel Prieto began this meeting by reading the main report, which sums up the institution's activities from 1988 to the present. Prieto, who is also a member of the PCC's Politburo, highlights in this document the membership's emphatic support for the holding of this event and the generous desire to work for the salvation of the fatherland through the channel of culture. The main report also talks about the eagerness to open spaces of greater quality in the creative work of writers and artists who are members of UNEAC.

Politburo Members Attend

FL2011193493 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and of Ministers and first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba is presiding over the opening meeting of the Fifth Congress of the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists [UNEAC], which is under way at the Convention Center. Also presiding over the event are Politburo members Abel Prieto, who is president of the UNEAC; Maria de los Angeles Garcia; Jose Ramon Machado Ventura; Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada; Jose Ramon Balaguer; and Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, as well as representatives of government institutions and prominent figures in the sphere of culture.

The UNEAC congress will be meeting today and tomorrow, and its agenda addresses essential aspects of Cuban culture under the difficult circumstances in which the nation currently finds itself. Here with further details from the Convention Center is reporter Guillermo Bernal.

[Bernal] During the analysis of the report, the more than 300 delegates present have emphasized rescuing national values, many of which have been forgotten, or distorted for commercial purposes. Also defended has been the right of Cubans to enjoy a quality art that will be spiritually satisfying and also satisfy the population's recreational needs.

There have been very varied proposals, ranging from putting to better use the talent we possess to reestablishing the economic relations that will allow Cuban culture to recover profits that escape us through authors' copyrights, editions of music, and the record industry.

(Selina Gonzalez), the queen of country music, made an interesting speech before the plenum. [passage omitted]

This afternoon, the work of the five committees that will analyze international promotion of Cuban culture will begin. Also on the agenda for this afternoon are the economy of culture, culture and tourism, national promotion, and the [UNEAC] statutes.

Castro: Saving Culture Benefits

PA2111033693 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Nov 93

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro said that culture is one of the first things that must be saved in Cuba, so that the people can reap its spiritual and material benefits. Speaking today at the meeting of the Fifth Congress of the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists [UNEAC], the Cuban chief of state called on intellectuals to work to preserve the artists who have emerged in the past few years in the country.

Fidel Castro noted that the country's will is to survive and to develop, but above all, to maintain ethics, morals, and revolutionary principles. The Cuban president said that at this moment, in view of the difficulties faced by Cuba, ways are being sought to prevent the dilapidation of resources earmarked for culture. He said that struggling to defend our resources now signifies struggling for things as essential as foodstuffs and medicine.

On opening the debates of the Fifth UNEAC Congress, Abel Prieto, its top leader, said that culture is part of the effort of resistance of today's Cuba. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, drafted a greeting message recalling the role of the Cuban creators and artists in the revolutionary process, since as long ago as the thirties.

More on Castro at UNEAC Congress

FL2211010693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Following is a news report by journalist Guillermo Bernal from the Convention Center, on the opening

session of the UNEAC [National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists] Fifth Congress.

[Bernal] Yes, thank you. The discussions of the UNEAC Fifth Congress' main report have had extremely interesting movements, with people making important speeches on the reconstruction of the Amadeo Roldan Theater, in order to make possible the reestablishment (?there) of the National Symphony Orchestra and other groups that play concert music. In this connection, Fidel suggested:

[Begin recording] I think, Leal, that we could even put a little [word indistinct], such as helping the Amadeo Roldan Theater to rebuild itself would be. [applause] [end recording] [passage omitted]

The commander in chief is at present discussing with the plenum the role culture plays in tourism.

Ricardo Alarcon Addresses UNEAC Congress Session

FL2211031293 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro briefly visited the delegates and guests at the Fifth National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists [UNEAC] Congress. During the morning session, Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], pointed out that economic problems will the main issue of the next regular session of the ANPP. In a special address to participants in the UNEAC Congress, Alarcon praised the decisive role that intellectuals must play in the complex moment Cuban society is confronting.

[Passage omitted] Writer Abel Prieto was ratified as president of the UNEAC and composer Jose Loyolla was selected as first vice president. Writers Miguel Barnet and Enrique Nunez Rodriguez, critic and essayist Graciela Pogoloti, painter Roberto Fabello, and filmmaker Octavio Cortaza are also part of the vice presidency of the institution. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Robaina Interviewed on Caribbean Tour

PA2111191193 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Report by Barbara Betancourt for the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] After a two-day stopover in Venezuela, Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina initiated a Caribbean tour on 10 November that included official visits to Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Jamaica, and the Bahamas. Robaina returned to Havana on 20 November, and minutes after arriving he agreed to an interview with this radio station.

[Begin recording] [Robaina] I think it has been an extremely positive tour given the timing and the opportunity to exchange views. We have been able to directly express the country's reality, and we have especially learned of the understanding and respect for Cuba in the Caribbean.

The tour was conducted just as we are about to sign the documents creating the Cuba-Caricom [Caribbean Common Market] Mixed Commission on (?3 December). We also participated in the creation of the Association of Caribbean States. We were able to express our satisfaction with the Caribbean position at the latest United Nations vote, which gives this a special meaning.

We were not only able to see the history, tradition, and culture that unite us, but also the number of problems we share. We have seen that the best resource we have to face our problems are the Caribbean's human values. I think there is great interest in what Cuba can contribute. Cuba does not only receive from the Caribbean. Cuba can contribute to the Caribbean in important fields such as education, health, culture, medicine, tourism, and sugar. These are the things in which we have experience, but there are many things we have to learn. I think each country has its attractions, each country has its share of understanding to do, and each country has much to contribute.

[Betancourt] Aside from tourism and the Cuban trade strategy [words indistinct] Caribbean with Cuba?

[Robaina] The Cuba-Caricom Mixed Commission is now in the process of identifying common areas, some of which are tourism, the sugar industry, fishing, maritime delimitations, and certain things involving sports, culture, and education. There is great interest in our experience with sugar cane byproducts. There is great interest in achieving regional integration regarding tourism. We are eliminating the fear some may have that we are trying to compete with them in the field of tourism. We are talking about a complementary tourism with each other, and I believe we can contribute to what each island may offer. In this regard we can cooperate and turn the Caribbean region into a gigantic tourism destination in which many countries have a lot to offer.

[Betancourt] You are talking about multidestination tourism, for example?

[Robaina] Multidestination tourism is one variable gaining popularity in the tourism field, and I think it may be one of the options the Caribbean can offer.

[Betancourt] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Commentary Examines APEC Summit in Seattle

FL1911150093 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 19 Nov 93

["Our Opinion" commentary by Eduardo Dimas]

[Text] The informal summit of the Asia-Pacific forum, or APEC, which is its acronym in English, is to begin today in Seattle, in the United States. The results should have a significant impact on the future of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade; and this summit will undoubtedly be characterized by talks between the three greats at this meeting: United States, Japan, and China.

One of the principal objectives of this summit will be to establish the foundations for a free trade area among APEC's 15 members: Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei, the Philippines, and Malaysia—that is, the six ASEAN members—and the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, China, Hong Kong, South Korea, and Taiwan.

The strategy of certain APEC leaders is to get the forum into condition to rise up as an element for applying pressure vis-a-vis the EC, which they claim would facilitate a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round. Other APEC heads of state would like to see ASEAN's six members, as well as China, South Korea, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, lower the customs tariffs of a group of goods.

One element that was of great importance to the successful holding of this summit was the approval by part of the U.S. Congress of the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] with Mexico and Canada. That step was taken last Wednesday, when the House of Representatives ratified NAFTA, which buttresses the credibility of Bill Clinton's administration and increases (?his) negotiating capacity. It is also helpful to Mexico in entering APEC without any big problems.

Observers think attention will be focused on Clinton's first meeting with Chinese President Jiang Zemin, during which Zemin will hear the new U.S. President's statements regarding the controversial matter of human rights. Secretary of State Warren Christopher gave a preview of this yesterday, when he set forth his government's position without implying the possibility that China might be denied most-favored-nation trade status.

Certain analysts think the Chinese Government might set aside the current differences in favor of a thrust in the relations of cooperation, if Washington does not continue its policy of imposing models in relation to human rights. In this matter, China would be seconded by other Asian heads of state, who demand the same thing.

At first glance, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum seems to embrace too many subjects for two days of informal meetings between the heads of state, and it is impossible to dismiss the possibility that certain important aspects may fail to be discussed.

It occurs to me that these meetings constitute a sign of the times, of what has come to be called the globalization of the economy but, at the same time, its regionalization. Indeed, two economic poles, the Pacific Basin's and America's, are meeting, with all this might mean, in a world where all the conditions for a trade war are present. And Europe, the other pole, is not present. However, it is still too early to talk about that.

Antilles

Curacao To Maintain Status With Netherlands

PA2011135193 Paris AFP in Spanish 1253 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] The Hague, 20 Nov (AFP)—In a dispatch datelined Willemstad, the Netherlands news agency ANP reported 20 November that the people of Curacao on Friday voted by a massive majority to keep the island part of the Netherlands Antilles and to maintain its administrative and political status with regard to the Netherlands.

Curacao residents voted in a referendum to determine the island's status, with 73 percent preferring to maintain the status quo.

The voters had four options described as A, B, C, and D: the status quo, autonomy, uniting with the Netherlands, and independence.

Option A, which was the winner, does not change the island's situation: The island will continue to be run by a Netherlands Antilles governor appointed by the queen of the Netherlands. The governor represents the queen and the Government of the Kingdom, and along with the council of ministers of the islands makes up the Netherlands Antilles Government.

A law of the Kingdom regulates the function and responsibilities of the Netherlands Antilles Government. This government watches over the general interests of the Kingdom and ensures that the decisions made by the legislative or administrative bodies do not violate the laws of the Kingdom or international norms.

Option B, which appeared to have the support of the majority of voters, proposed a "separate status," that is to say, autonomy. This option received only 18 percent of the votes.

Option C would have united Curacao with the Netherlands, converting it into a province. This option received 8 percent of the votes.

Finally, less than 1 percent of the voters selected option D, which would have given the island total independence, converting it into a separate state entirely.

Only 63 percent of the people participated in the referendum, which surprised local authorities who, based on the most recent polls, had expected an 83-percent turnout.

The Netherlands Antilles, the Netherlands' last remaining overseas territory, comprise Aruba (which has

a special status), Curacao, Bonaire, St. Eustatius, Saba, and St. Maarten. This last island is divided: Half of its territory belongs to France, and the other half belongs to the Netherlands Antilles.

Haiti

Anniversary of Battle of Vertieres Celebrated

FL1911215993 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Report by Louis Mercier Bellevue—recorded in Creole]

[Excerpts] There was nothing familiar about the way the anniversary of the Battle of Vertieres was celebrated this year, compared to the manner in which it had been commemorated in Port-au-Prince for the last six years. The Haitian military battalions did not march past. There was no gunfire. Neither were there the usual number of speeches. In fact, according to what we managed to see, the Vertieres Battle Day this year was mostly symbolic because the entire ceremony was held in the yard of the General Headquarters. Protestant Church hymns and homilies most symbolized the celebration of the military today.

This event began at around 1400 GMT. Journalists were not invited, but they could stand in the area surrounding the General Headquarters to follow the events. The journalists requested entry when the general began speaking, but the officers at the gate had not received orders to let them in. The press was not authorized to record the event on video or audiotape.

The general spoke, addressing officers and noncommissioned officers quartered throughout Haiti, telling them, who wish to relive the Battle of Vertieres, that their commander in chief empathizes with them.

The general said it was very unfortunate that this year's anniversary finds them out of harmony with the rest of the nation. He added that Haiti is a little country, which is experiencing many ups and downs today. It has been been accused of questioning world order. The general asserted that there is no spontaneous democracy, and that nobody can impose democracy on a country. The general took the opportunity to thank Prime Minister Malval for having thought of the Haitian Armed Forces on that this occasion.

Deputy Desjardins agreed to talk to us after the ceremony. He discussed Gen. Cedras' message. In his opinion, Gen. Cedras' message is one of reconciliation. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, let us point out the presence at this ceremony of some political leaders, deputies, and senators, including Mobilization for National Development leader, Hubert de Ronceray; Senator Bernard Sansaricq; Louis Dejoie, the Malval government commerce minister; and many other political personalities. Louis Mercier Bellevue for Signal FM.

General Cedras Gives Speech

FL1911171193 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] The Armed Forces [is an] impregnable rampart to exploitation, interference, manipulation, and division among our Haitian brothers, the spearhead of our democracy. The man who said so is General Raoul Cedras, commander in chief of the Haitian Army. In a detailed message on 18 November, Army Day, the head of the Army appeared confident of a new victory by Haitian blacks over their detractors. Are they afraid of another 1804 [Haiti's independence year] as anachronistic as that of our independence, wonders Gen. Cedras.

The unity that led us to Vertieres [final battle of Haitian troops against the French colonists on 18 November 1803] is about to recur. It must show itself in each aspect where the wounds of our nation are to be dressed, according the head of the Haitian Army. If he communicates with his troops before the final assault, he said, it is not for a war of emancipation but for a definitive triumph over ourselves and over all those who have tried to deprive us of the right to a full life and to dignity, forgetting that we are still quivering with the emotion of a heroic birth. This final battle that will be waged will be won through discipline, loyalty, the sense of responsibility, and the awareness of the members of the Army, according to Gen. Cedras, who pointed out that history is being remade beginning with this 18 November. He called for a renewal of the spirit of 18 November 1803.

The head of the Army is delighted with the interest in the public forces that Prime Minister Malval, the representative of civilian power, has shown. It is good that he has indeed caught up with reality, with the very essence of the new philosophy of the Armed Forces since 30 September 1991. The commander in chief of the Haitian Army denounces the behavior of the international community that has made the return of one man the sole criterion for the restoration of an imaginary system, demolishing the history, culture, and morals of an entire people.

Metropole Analyses Addresses

FL2011000993 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] No official ceremony, no parade, no marching. The day marking the 190th anniversary of the Battle of Vertieres was one of the simplest, this day that General Cedras dedicated to meditation, and the prime minister, to peace and contemplation. This 18 November was marked by two messages, one by Prime Minister Robert Malval, and one by Army commander in chief, Gen. Raoul Cedras. Clarence Renois presents a look at these two speeches, through which the head of government and the head of the Army exchanged thoughts on the political crisis in Haiti.

[Renois] The 190th anniversary of the Vertieres Battle was an occasion for the Army to meditate. This was the

request of the general staff of the institution which, without a doubt, for the first time, did not wish to hold the usual sumptuous ceremony. Gen. Cedras wanted the day to be dedicated to meditation—no further explanation. There was no traditional procession, no parade, no official ceremony.

The day before, the chief commander of the military institution, Prime Minister Robert Malval, addressed the Army members, urging them to submit to civilian authority, calling for the Army's involvement in development goals. Robert Malval also indicated to the institution the road to neutrality. The Army, he said, has everything to gain within the framework of flawless neutrality. It has everything to lose in political involvement. Desiring settlement of the political crisis in which the Army is deeply involved, Prime Minister Robert Malval asked Army members to swallow their pride to spare the country the catastrophe that is threatening it. This day of contemplation should incite us not to seek faults in one another, but to seek reasons for bringing us closer together, a conciliatory, pacifying speech from the head of the government on the occasion of 18 November.

The 190th anniversary of the Vertieres Battle was for the Army of Gen. Raoul Cedras an occasion for meditation. However, the commander in chief did not miss the opportunity to address his troops. I feel even closer to you, in total harmony with each one of you, you who are more determined than ever to repeat Vertieres and to reinvoke Boukman, Dessalines, and Capois la Mort for the final victory. These were statements by the Army commander in chief. Unfortunately, acknowledges Gen. Cedras, this 18 November does not find us hand in hand with our Haitian brothers because we remain entangled in a maze of endless accords and negotiations. Gen. Raoul Cedras referred to the Governors Island accord and the 30 September 1991 coup d'etat. A miracle of an antidote to the democratic drift, this small black country, forgotten in its depths of poverty, illiteracy, and miasma of waste, sees itself taken over by the big names in this developed world. He reproached the international community for wanting to impose a democracy to Haiti. Democracy cannot be attached to the return of a man, the only criterion to restore an imaginary system, said the Army chief. Raoul Cedras also compared the sanctions imposed on Haiti to a cynical plan of slow death through hunger and other hardships, nourished by the hope of social explosion or intervention. Answering the message of Prime Minister Robert Malval, Gen. Cedras said he was pleased that Robert Malval actually joined in the essence of the new philosophy of the Haitian Armed Forces since 30 September 1991. According to Gen. Cedras' statements, the Haitian prime minister understood that by applying the major principles provided by the Constitution, the Armed Forces had helped reach the current constitutional state. Answering the hope for unity and peace formulated by Robert Malval, Raoul Cedras was pleased by the interest that the head of the government has shown in the public force, as an auxiliary to the civilian power.

The country is counting on you; you can count on the country, stated Robert Malval at the end of his message. To this, Gen. Raoul Cedras replied: If the country counts on the members of the Armed Forces, it should be able to count even more on the one who was chosen to be head of the entire team of men. Finally, the Army commander in chief called for unity among men of various doctrinal leanings, away from any messianic approach. Thus, 18 November still found the government and the Army at this distance, with political rhetoric and death dialogue continuing between the two institutions.

Aristide Urges Army Revolt Against 'Death Machine'

FL1911221093 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1800 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] On the occasion of 18 November President Jean-Bertrand Aristide severely criticized the Haitian military authorities, whom he accuses of involvement in drug trafficking. Once again, Father Aristide linked reconciliation to justice.

[Begin recording, in Creole] On 18 November 1803 our ancestors did not stand at attention in front of criminals. [Word indistinct] the Haitian Army has been caught in a trap for 26 months. So, while the heads of the Army and the police finish becoming millionaires on money from drugs, theft, and corruption, they continue dragging the grassroots Army like a slipper through the corridor of corruption.

Officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers: Listen to me carefully. Please do not be stubborn. If you have trouble stopping the death machine, let the people help you do it. If, together with the people, you still have trouble stopping the death machine, deflate the death machine's four tires until you force the driver and the criminal passengers to get out so an avalanche of reconciliation and justice can rush in and flood everywhere [words indistinct].

Officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers: This self-defense operation without violence will be good for you, for your country, your wives, your children, and all of Haiti's sons. [end recording]

Deputies Take FRAPH Threats 'Very Seriously'

FL1911225193 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] The office of the Chamber of Deputies in Port-au-Prince notices with bitterness that the Haitian parliament is the object of a controversy articulated by Revolutionary Front For Haitian Advancement and Progress [FRAPH] leaders during a news conference on 16 November. The threats uttered against the parliament and its members could be rightly interpreted as the sign of a destabilization campaign through the parliamentary institution. The office of the Chamber of Deputies makes this observation, stating that it takes the threats of

the political front very seriously and that the only protection during this time of national danger should be the safeguard of republican institutions. The office of the Chamber of Deputies invites all sectors involved in the crisis to demonstrate reason and identify any clues that could lead to the release of the country.

Jamaica

Foreign Minister Comments on Far East Visit

FL2011173493 Bridgetown CANA in English 1630 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 20 Nov, CANA—Jamaica and the Republic of Korea have signed a visa abolition agreement that will waiver visa requirements for persons travelling between the two countries for 90 days. Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. Paul Robertson in making the announcement following his return this week from a visit to the Far East, said the agreement was expected,"to boost tourism and business travel between the two countries". Robertson was accompanied by a team of public and private sector representatives on the trade and investment promotion visit from October 24 to November 11 to South Korea, China and Hong Kong.

The minister said to date, Jamaica had attracted 21 investors from Hong Kong and Korea, and one from the People's Republic of China, primarily in the garment industry. The recent sale of the Agriuanabo textile complex here to Golden Leader International, a Hong Kong enterprise was well received with, "valuable national publicity in Hong Kong", he said. Potential investors showed, "considerable interest in Jamaica as an investment location and tourist destination".

He said the mission highlighted Jamaica's strategic location and preferential access to the North American and European markets. Robertson pointed out that, "notwithstanding the good effort" of the Jamaican mission to the Far East, there was a need to make more information on tourism, and investment opportunities in Jamaica available to the public in that region. Jamaica has an embassy in Tokyo which is headed by Ambassador Derick Heaven, and a small trade office in Hong Kong.

Responding to queries on how increased representation in the Far East could be achieved without undue pressure on the limited resources of the country, the minister said government would be re-examining and rationalising existing representation in other countries with a view to expanding its presence in the Far East.

Robertson said the Taejon Expo, an important international exposition which took place in Seoul during the time of the visit had proved very valuable. Jamaica and several other Caribbean countries were represented.

Patterson Thanks Sandiford for Maritime Law

FL2111212893 Bridgetown CANA in English 1450 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 21 Nov, CANA—Jamaica's Prime Minister Percival Patterson has thanked Barbados and other Caribbean countries for responding to his request for ratification of the Law of the Sea Convention.

Patterson expressed his gratitude during a meeting with visiting Barbados Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford at Vale Royal, the prime minister's residence, a release from the prime minister's office said.

Guyana became the 60th nation to ratify the Law of the Sea Convention earlier this week, thus setting the stage "for entry into force" of the convention 12 months from now. Jamaica is the site of the seabed authority and will host the first meeting of states or parties to the convention in late 1994. Sandiford is in Jamaica to hold a series of discussions with his Jamaican counterpart.

St. Kitts and Nevis

Opposition Platform Includes Tax Reduction

FL1911195893 Bridgetown CANA in English 1735 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, 19 Nov, CANA—The opposition St Kitts and Nevis Labour Party is offering tax cuts for companies, duty-free concessions for guest houses and land for farming as it prepares for a November 29 general election.

In a 29-page manifesto, just released here, the party also said it favoured agricultural diversification, establishment of an export free zone, concessions for people buying their first home, and creation of several jobs for the youth. The manifesto is entitled "A Blueprint for Change, The Foundation To Build On".

The Labour Party said that if it wins the poll it would seek to strengthen the agricultural, manufacturing, tourism and financial sectors. It wants to diversify agriculture. The Labour Party said it intends to give small farmers land titles and encourage prospective farmers to obtain long-term leases. The party plans to encourage livestock farming by selling or leasing government-owned land to farmers. The party, underscoring the need to attract enclave industries producing for preferential markets, said it would, in collaboration with the private sector, set up an export free zone.

According to the manifesto, the Development Bank of St Kitts and Nevis would administer a special fund providing venture capital for local entrepreneurs and encourage local ownership of manufacturing concerns. In addition to providing incentives for the development of hotels and condominiums, a labour government would encourage small local investors by giving them duty-free and tax concessions on guest houses of five rooms or more and tax exemption for five years.

Pointing out that it will not reintroduce personal income tax, the Labour Party said it would review the tax regime with the intention of abolishing or reducing some taxes, reduce company tax and actively promote local entrepreneurship and management in order to build up the economic base of the country and to provide a sustainable basis for investment.

The party also plans to exempt first home buyers from down payments when purchasing houses from government. It promises exemption from duty to first home buyers and reduced mortgage interest rates to public sector employees purchasing their first home. The party wants to attract local and foreign private investment into the housing sector with incentives, according to the manifesto.

The party promises, as a matter of priority, to "depoliticize" the police force.

It plans to establish an independent broadcasting corporation to operate the state-owned ZIZ Radio and Television if it wins the poll. Every section of the society should be given the opportunity to voice an opinion on all issues facing the community and the government of the day should not have absolute control and use of the national broadcasting facilities, the party said.

Political Parties Submit Candidates for Elections

FL2011175593 Bridgetown CANA in English 1729 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Report by Lloyd Lazare]

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, 20 Nov, CANA—Twenty-eight candidates from five political parties are seeking parliamentary seats in St. Kitts and Nevis' November 29 general election.

The People's Action Movement, which has been in power here since 1980, announced candidates for all eight seats St. Kitts has in the national parliament, while its long-standing partner, the Nevis Reformation Party, named candidates for the three Nevis seats.

The main opposition, St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party, is fielding eight candidates for the St. Kitts seats and the United People's Party [UPP], launched this year by sacked Deputy Prime Minister Michael Powell, just six. The UPP is ignoring the two seats Labour Picked up in the last general election, in 1989.

The Concerned Citizen's Movement [CCM], led by premier of Nevis, Vance Amory, is making a bid for the three Nevis seats. The five political parties handed in their nomination papers Friday. The People's Action Movement [PAM], headed by Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds, is the only party with a female candidate. It has two newcomers, including former diplomat Erstein Edwards, seeking the East Basseterre seat held by Powell.

The Labour Party, led by Dr. Denzil Douglas, has five newcomers. Powell is the only United People's Party candidate who has faced the electorate before. For the first time, the Nevis Reformation Party [NRP] is being taken into an election by Joseph Parry, a minister in the central government. Parry took over after Simeon Daniel lost his seat in Nevis' local elections. PAM has six parliamentary seats, the Labour Party two, the NRP two and CCM one.

The People's Action Movement has been campaigning largely on its record of economic achievement, but promises to spend heavily on housing, education, tourism and other projects. The Labour Party promises jobs for the youth, tax concessions for business and land for small farmers. Powell has been talking of giving tourism a new lease on life, developing the country for the common man, and putting God first.

NRP Founder Enters Race as Independent

FL2111220093 Bridgetown CANA in English 2036 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, 21 Nov, CANA—The founder of the Nevis Reformation Party (NRP), Levi Morton, is the lone independent candidate contesting St. Kitts and Nevis' November 29th general elections. His nomination brings to 29, the number of candidates representing three political parties in the up-coming poll.

Morton, a printer, will be running in the electoral district of Nevis against Victor Martin of the NRP and businessmen Malcolm Guishard of the Concerned Citizens Movement (CCM).

The Peoples Action Movement (PAM), in power since 1980, and the St. Kitts Nevis Labour Party (SKNLP) of Dr. Denzil Douglas, are contesting all eight seats in St. Kitts, the larger of the two-island nation. The United Peoples Party (UPP), launched this year by sacked Deputy Prime Minister Michael Powell, is fielding six candidates.

The Nevis constituency is being contested by the CCM of Premier Vance Amory and the NRP, which is being led for the first time by Joseph Parry, a minister in the central government. The parties handed in their nominations on Friday.

Salinas Says Efficiency Must Meet Deadline

PA2011055793 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 20 Nov 93

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] Good news for small- and medium-sized businesses. Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has warned that with the approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the opening of Asian, Latin American and European markets, Mexico's efficiency must meet a deadline.

Addressing over 2,500 businessmen gathered at two consecutive events at the National Finance Bank, Inc. headquarters, President Salinas said the government will not abandon the business sector during this time of heightened competition in the country.

The president said that among the fundamental elements for competition is the cost of money, and he announced that the price of preferential credit will be reduced. Salinas said that as of today, interest rates for the beneficiaries of credit for small- and medium-sized businesses will have a two-point reduction. One point will go to the National Finance Bank, Inc., and he asked bankers and intermediaries to absorb the other point.

Upon describing the benefits for the business sector, Oscar Espinosa, National Financial Bank, Inc. director, presented 20 businessmen who constitute proof of the progress of some of the institution's leading programs.

Jaime Serra Puche, Commerce and Industrial Development Secretary, said that President Salinas' policy proves that the path undertaken five years ago was the right one.

Later, at the first congress of credit unions and development banks, Deputy Finance Secretary Guillermo Ortiz said that only through greater domestic savings will Mexico achieve the well-being the Mexican people deserve and are demanding.

Ricardo Dager Nahun, president of CONCANACO [Confederation of National Chambers of Commerce], announced that new projects and strategies are being developed to fully resolve the problems that are still plaguing companies.

President Salinas de Gortari was also accompanied by Finance Secretary Pedro Aspe; Emilio Lozoya, secretary of energy, mines and parastate industry; Mexican Association of Bankers President Roberto Hernandez; and by leaders from the private sector's hierarchy organizations and the institutions that regulate the country's financial activities.

PRD Candidate Says NAFTA 'Not a Good Agreement'

PA1911152993 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0440 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Report by Jacobo Zabludovsky on the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] I received a bulletin from the Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD] on the evening of 17 November. It arrived a little late, so I did not have enough time to comment on it during the 17 November program. Several newspapers published it on 18 November, and I do not wish to omit some of its paragraphs. [sentence as heard]

The bulletin's headline reads: Statement by Engineer Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, candidate for the presidency of the Republic, regarding the vote taken tonight by the U.S. House of Representatives on the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA].

Part of this bulletin states: The agreement, as negotiated, was not a good agreement for Mexico. It was poorly negotiated; thus, the midterm consequences for the country will be serious. If, in its practical application, the agreement proves to be harmful to the country, we must renegotiate it.

As of now, it can be considered to lack legal value, as it is detrimental to the interests of important productive sectors. Those offerings must not be accepted.

In no case must the negotiations with the United States promote the submission of our country and the subordination of our sovereignty.

That was part of this bulletin.

Proposes Debating President Salinas

PA2111041393 Paris AFP in Spanish 0221 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] San Luis Potosi, Mexico, 20 Nov (AFP)—Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, presidential candidate for the center-left wing Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD], today, proposed a debate with Mexican President Carlos Salinas about the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

During a ceremony in which he formally launched his electoral campaign for the presidential elections of 1994, Cardenas dismissed the proposal made by Jaime Serra Puche, secretary of commerce and industrial development, for holding a public debate and demanded that the discussion be with Salinas.

On 18 November, Serra Puche proposed this debate to Cardenas so that they could discuss the PRD candidate's objections to the agreement reached by Mexico, the United States, and Canada. During today's ceremony, Cardenas said NAFTA is a lousy agreement and that it was negotiated poorly and behind the backs of the

Mexican people, but also said there is no sense in holding a debate after the negotiations have been completed.

On 22 November, the Mexican Senate—in which the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party has a comfortable majority—will discuss NAFTA for ratification. It would be "naive" of me, said Cardenas, to hold the debate now that everything has already been negotiated, and said that the senators "only vote in accordance with the guidelines set" by the one who rules in Mexico, Carlos Salinas. Cardenas then proposed a debate with Salinas and offered Serra Puche a debate with one of his collaborators.

Canadian Prime Minister Talks With Clinton

LD2011151293 Montreal Radio Canada International in English 1430 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Jean Chretien and President Bill Clinton have had their first talks in Seattle, Washington. The Canadian leader called the meeting a pleasant encounter. However, he also said he made it clear that differences remain between Ottawa and Washington over the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Prime Minister Chretien and President Clinton have agreed to set up a working committee of ministers to try to sort out Canada's concerns. Mr. Chretien says that Washington's position concerning the export of large quantities of fresh water is not clear enough. Mr. Chretien also says he wants better protection for Canadian energy sources, such as petroleum. Canada's concerns are the only remaining obstacle that must be overcome before the free trade agreement can take effect as scheduled on 1 January.

IADB President: NAFTA To Benefit Latin America

FL1911195293 Bridgetown CANA in English 1621 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, 19 Nov, CANA—President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) Enrique Iglesias says the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Wednesday symbolises the United States' commitment to secure a climate of prosperity and peace in the region.

"The approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement demonstrates the determination of the United States to work together with Latin America, the Caribbean and Canada to forge a hemisphere of democracy, prosperity and justice.

"The passage of NAFTA will drive the process of trade liberalization a crucial step further, opening the door to a common future of prosperity and democracy for all the nations of the hemisphere," Iglesias said.

He said NAFTA, a trading agreement linking the United States, Canada and Mexico into a free trade zone, will be beneficial to the region especially Latin America, whom he says is already benefitting from other trading arrangements.

"Latin America has committed itself to historic economic, social and political changes that are already promising increasing prosperity for its people in the years to come.

"In particular, the nations of the region have committed themselves to free trade and in many cases are already enjoying the benefits," the IADB president said.

WFTU Official: NAFTA 'Danger' to Latin America

FL1811194493 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Diverse matters related to the work of the World Federation of Trade Unions [WFTU] were discussed today in a news conference by Jose Ortiz, WFTU secretary for Latin America. Ortiz also provided information regarding the WFTU's 13th congress, which is to be held in 1994.

Upon broaching the subject of the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA], Ortiz said NAFTA does not benefit the workers of Latin America. Journalist Gisela Bel Heredia has new details.

[Bel] Ortiz also pointed out that the approval of NAFTA constitutes a serious danger to the sovereignty of the countries of Latin America. In an assessment, which though a personal one, is not too different from the opinion held by his organization, Ortiz emphasized that although he is in favor of economic integration, he is aware of the risk inherent in the agreement.

[Begin Ortiz recording] What worries us is that this is not integration that is going to benefit Latin America. This is integration that is going to benefit, basically, the transnational companies; not even U.S. industry, per se. It constitutes a possibility for the transnationals to impose their conditions on 360 million people, and not exactly of free trade because [word indistinct] we analyze it, (?the concrete reality is a bit like what Cuba is going through): How can one speak of free trade when the Government of the United States, one of the three components of this agreement, forbids, impedes, boycotts, and creates difficulties for all those nations wishing to trade with Cuba. [end recording]

[Bel] Ortiz also said the WFTU must recover its role as a protagonist in the struggle for change, sovereignty, and employment.

Trinidadian Envoy, Other Officials Comment

FL2011154593 Bridgetown CANA in English 1514 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Report by Wesley Kirton]

[Text] Washington, 20 Nov, CANA—The Clinton Administration has thanked the Caribbean Community (Caricom) for its support on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and pledged to work speedily to ensure equal-treatment measures are put in place to cushion the negative effects the agreement could have on regional economies.

The U.S. House of Representatives voted 234 to 200 Wednesday in support of NAFTA, a free trade accord grouping the economies of the United States, Canada and Mexico.

U.S deputy assistant secretary for inter-American affairs, Donna Hrinak said Caricom's support for the legislation was very important in ensuring its passage. She said efforts would begin as early as next week to bring Caribbean Basin and other countries such as Chile into the agreement as soon as possible.

Hrinak was speaking in a televised roundtable discussion Thursday on the hemispheric accord.

Also on the panel were Trinidad and Tobago's ambassador to the United States Corinne McKnight, executive director of the Eastern Caribbean Investment Promotion Services (ECIPS) John Arrindell and executive director of Caribbean Latin American Action (CLAA) Peter Johnson.

McKnight said Caricom and Central American nations supported NAFTA despite the omission of parity measures because, "we are confident there is something in it for us. There were not any demonstrations around the parliaments in the Caribbean saying down with NAFTA."

She said regional leaders supported NAFTA because the people of the region understood that given the changing global circumstances NAFTA, "will be good for us in the long run." The diplomat expressed confidence that parity measures would be put in place early next year and added that regional and Central American diplomats had already started work on a strategy to ensure this. But she wants the Clinton Administration to make available to Caribbean Basin countries copies of the inter-agency study spearheaded by U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor which examined the impact of NAFTA on their economies.

The study was ordered by Clinton last August following his meeting with five Caricom leaders at the White House.

McKnight said Caribbean Basin officials would like to look at the findings and the recommendations of the study "as we begin to shape our strategy... Working with the administration and the Congress and the various interest lobbies to put parity measures in place." She said a bill introduced earlier this year by Congressman Sam Gibbons while no longer applicable, did draw attention to the concerns of the Caribbean about NAFTA as well as the willingness of the countries to join the agreement sooner rather than later.

"It was clear at the beginning that it was the administration's view that perhaps only Chile would soon be ready to join the agreement. The Gibbons bill helped to demonstrate and to position the Caribbean Basin countries to join the agreement alongside Chile. We have been undertaking the necessary economic reforms...Liberalisation of our economies and we now have a Caribbean Basin that is willing, ready and NAFTAble [as received]," McKnight said.

She said it was now necessary for the Caribbean to profit from the debate on NAFTA by educating members of the U.S. Congress about the reforms which had been undertaken to bring the region more in line with the global realities.

Johnson said that from the Caribbean's point of view it was wise not to have parity measures included in the implementing resolution for NAFTA. "I think we are in better shape now. What we would have gotten in the implementing legislation would have been very limited, limited to textiles and apparel. What we have got to work for now is more than barely acceptable parity measures-...Measures that have depth and breath," Johnson said.

He predicted that there would be enough support in the U.S. Congress for parity legislation for the Caribbean and Central America but warned that many of the questions which were raised during the NAFTA debate would be raised again when parity legislation is introduced. "I don't see arguments against parity holding any water but we have got to be organised and work together on this issue," he said.

Arrindell argued that the granting of parity measures to the Caribbean would not result in the diversion of jobs from the U.S. to the Caribbean. Unless parity measures were put in place, he said investment bound for the Caribbean, particularly the Organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS) would be diverted to Mexico. He said the OECS countries stood to benefit in the long-term from a hemispheric free trade agreement. "NAFTA is going to provide a better deal for us overall. There might be some shifts...One industry might suffer but others are going to benefit. Our exports to the United States are up significantly in recent years and I think that as part of the Americas, we will be able to expand our exports, earn more foreign exchange and seek to provide a better quality of life for our people," Arrindell said. He said the region needed to put its fears behind it and seek to use its comparative advantages to ensure a prosperous future.

Salvadoran Planning Minister Hails Approval

PA2011045293 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 19 Nov 93 p 4

[Text] Planning Minister Mirna Lievano Marques said yesterday that the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) approved on Wednesday by the U.S.

Congress [as published] is important not only for North America but for the entire continent.

Lievano Marquez added that the approval of NAFTA, which will go into effect on 1 January 1994, establishes a trend toward free trade and the formation of trade blocs that will gradually expand. "It is a matter of time before our country gains access to those trade blocs," Lievano said, adding that NAFTA clearly indicates that "the country's productive reconversion must be stepped up."

Meanwhile, Dr. Ruben Zamora, presidential candidate for the Democratic Convergence-Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, said that U.S. President Bill Clinton's victory "will benefit El Salvador in the medium-term and that it is necessary for us to prepare ourselves for the irreversible process of economic globalization." Dr. Zamora added that NAFTA forces Central America to prepare for itself a niche of competitiveness in order to participate in the international market.

Meanwhile, Jose Ernesto Vilanova, a representative for the business sector, said the most important thing about NAFTA's approval is that it will allow an integrated Central America to establish contact with other regional trade blocs. Vilanova said the key to access to the markets that will be generated by NAFTA is blocs, "and Central America has already taken a step in that direction with its integration."

Nevertheless, Christian Democratic Deputy Amanda Villatoro pointed out that the Salvadoran labor sector is wary of NAFTA because it does not take the productive force into consideration. "Treaties such as these, in the opinion of the labor sector, do not take workers' rights into consideration," the deputy said, adding that workers are relegated to a secondary position because of the trade interests of the countries involved.

Deputies Express Apprehension

PA2011053693 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 19 Nov 93 p 4

[Text] Salvadoran deputies have received with apprehension the news about the U.S. Congress' approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement. The agreement will go into effect in January 1994 and will activate free trade between the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

According to the deputies, Salvadoran exports could experience negative effects. There is fear that the country could become a consumption market. The deputies have urged the Central American presidents to devise an economic bloc to seek incorporation into the treaty and not to do this alone.

The leader of the Nationalist Republican Alliance in the Salvadoran Congress, Carmen Elena Calderon de Escalon, chairwoman of the Legislative Assembly Finance Commission, said that in due time the treaty will benefit the country. She said that until the agreement goes into effect in January 1994, no one will really know what the repercussions will be on the export sector.

She said that the government has begun to make efforts in favor of having Salvadoran exports receiving the preferential treatment the United States is granting to developing nations.

Mrs. Escalon said that contacts have been established with the United States and Mexico so that Salvadoran exports will not experience a cut, because this could affect El Salvador once free trade between the United States, Mexico, and Canada begins.

She stated: "Exports are vital for us. The entire government plan is oriented toward strengthening exports. To export more we need a country in peace, capable of creating trust among foreign businesses so that they may invest here and so that new sources of employment and exports may benefit the Salvadorans."

The positive aspect, she added, is that this agreement will permit a more rapid integration of Central America. Those countries that have not favored the formation of an economic bloc now have to make up their minds.

As Jorge Villacorta, of the Democratic Convergence, sees it, NAFTA "is a clear signal that the government must change its policies and promote the [words indistinct] that will give the country the capability of competing and promoting its insertion into bloc markets."

According to the Democratic Convergence [CD] leader, free trade agreements are proposals that progress toward a world economy divided into blocs and therefore divided into regional markets and is not very practical to El Salvador on its own; therefore, "we must incorporate into the market as a region, or history will leave us behind because, whether we like it, we must participate in those markets."

Nevertheless, Villacorta expressed regret that El Salvador is not yet ready. "All markets are open, but we do not have the experience to compete and if we continue like this we will soon be mere consumers and recipients of goods."

A similar position is held by the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], as expressed by Angel Gabriel Aguirre who said that negative repercussions will occur if strategic measures are not implemented rapidly in Central America and more specifically in El Salvador.

"With the agreement, the U.S market will expand to include more than 300 million consumers, and Central America would be harmed by exports by those countries that now comprise the agreement," Aguirre said.

"We could become a nation of consumers, and a more dependent consumer at that, because the North American countries will be joining efforts and manufacturing large quantities of goods that need consumer outlets. It

would then be necessary for the raw goods we produce, and exports in general, to receive preferential treatments," Aguirre stated.

In the meantime, PCN [National Conciliation Party] leader Rafael Moran Orellana described the agreement as a challenge to Salvadoran businessmen, saying that they must seek to form a Central American bloc.

"We must enter as a group if we expect to be able to compete with other stronger countries. If we decide to isolate ourselves we would be seriously undermined, because we will be invaded by industries from other countries. We must seek an equilibrium and protect our national industry while the Salvadoran businessman becomes more competitive."

He added that we must search for other areas in which we will receive more benefits and [words indistinct] that will result in more sources of foreign exchange.

Guatemalan Deputy Foreign Minister Comments

PA2011034793 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Report on a news conference by Guatemalan Deputy Foreign Minister Salomon Cohen with unidentified reporters in Guatemala City 19 November; from the "Telepress" newscast—recorded]

[Text] Following the approval of the free trade agreement by the U.S. House of Representatives, it has been estimated that the Central American economies, most specifically Guatemala, will experience concrete benefits as a result of the free trade agreement between the United States, Mexico, and Canada. Guatemala's deputy foreign minister, Salomon Cohen, commented on the issue during a news conference:

[Begin recording] [Cohen] Concerning the impact on Latin America, this event represents an acknowledgement of the region's strategic importance by the most prominent country involved in world trade; that is, the United States. In negotiating NAFTA, the myth that free trade can only occur between nations with the same level of development has finally been torn down. In this respect, we have Mexico, still recognized as a developing nation, entering a long-term commercial relation—more or less for the next 15 years—with the most powerful economy in the world today. Why, then, would it be impossible for a country such as ours to join NAFTA? I believe we should start referring to the agreement as NAFTA, because that is its actual acronym.

Following instructions by Foreign Minister Arturo Fajardo, we have expressed our interest to the U.S. authorities to begin negotiations leading to our entry into NAFTA. Thanks to Deputy Economy Minister Rodriguez, we were able to hold talks with Mr. Herminio Blanco, Mexican foreign trade under secretary who up until a few days ago was Mexico's NAFTA negotiator. Mr. Blanco said that Mexico supports Central America and especially Guatemala's initiative to join NAFTA as soon as possible; thus, this represents a real challenge to our country.

Can you believe that Guatemala is now the only country with a natural border along the world's biggest free trade region? Can you imagine the far-reaching strategic and geographic value Guatemala now occupies? Thus, our bilateral talks with Mexico must also progress so that Mexico's southern border with Guatemala will provide real opportunities for our trade with that country, that it be can carried out rapidly and be the door for our products heading toward the North American free trade region. That is the first point I wanted to cover today.

We have already expressed Guatemala's need to join NAFTA as soon as possible, and talks on the issue should start soon. Guatemala's position is that for this negotiation process, Central America should initiate negotiations as a block. Central America should hold joint negotiations. As Central America's temporary secretary, responsible for organizing the next presidential summit, Guatemala hereby expresses Central America's interest to participate in NAFTA. That is the first point I wanted to cover.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Cohen] It is a far-reaching negotiation. It is a far-reaching negotiation that must occur in different fronts, because what we are trying to determine is which goods originating from those countries with which we are conducting free trade talks are capable of entering our market; at the same time, we are also interested in determining which of our goods will be entering their markets.

What we are doing is arriving at an agreement to eliminate customs and noncustoms barriers that will allow an unrestricted flow of goods and services. Those items that we may feel may be at a disadvantage with respect to other similar items from other countries must undergo slower custom tariff cuts. Of course, the main objective of the negotiation lies in ensuring that those our goods that have a competitive advantage and are ready to be exported to other markets will not be subject to any trade barriers.

[Reporter] What conditions has the United States imposed in order to access NAFTA?

[Cohen] First, the conditions are related to economic matters. We must resolve all issues related to intellectual property rights concerning labels, patents, industrial designs, and copyrights. We must implement regulations in the field of intellectual property rights, which are accepted worldwide. That is the first condition.

Second, we must have macroeconomic polices that are acknowledged worldwide as stable.

That is a necessary condition if we want to encourage foreign investments, the third point. We must have clear rules regulating foreign investments.

Fourth, there are other more specific aspects, such as those related to noncustoms tarrifs; in this respect, we can mention norms regulating sanitation measures covering agriculture products, [word indistinct], and so forth. During the first months of 1994, we plan to establish a closer working relationship with the Guatemalan press to provide updated information on the free trade issue. We will be needing their assistance. The objective of this is to provide up to date information that will help the public understand the importance of the free trade agreement. I must say that to accomplish this objective, we need the effort of all Guatemalans.

The government has a very important role to play. It must prepare a team of highly skilled negotiators, just as Mexico was able to do. Mexico opened an office in Washington specifically to promote the free trade agreement. There were at least 20 specialists working in this office; therefore our first priority is to appoint a negotiating team.

Second, the business sector. The business sector must also participate in this initiative, because they are the ones who will substantiate any commercial agreement. It would be futile for the government to go ahead and make arrangements that are not supported by an increase in trade and investments or the business sector. That responsibility falls on the business sector.

Third, we have the Guatemalan workers, who will be called upon to play an important role, because it will be up to them to ensure that our products have the sufficient quality level needed to compete in a free market.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Cohen] Guatemala has already made progress in these adjustments. First we have a stable economy. Guatemala practically has now a final arrangement with the IMF. We have made considerable progress in stabilizing our economy, which is one of the conditions to join NAFTA.

Second, we have to cut our customs tariffs. You are now seeing numerous goods that we never saw before, and I am referring to foreign goods in Guatemala. The reason for that is because our market has opened. We also progressed with Central America from the moment the protocol of the Central American Integration General Treaty was signed. In this respect, we have consolidated as a region and are now able to exchange goods among our nations, something the smaller nations must do. The smaller nations must try to carry out these types of negotiations as a group, because negotiating leverage increases considerably as a group. It is not the same thing to speak in the name of five or six million consumers, as to speak in the name of 30 million consumers.

[Reporter] What more is left to be done?

[Cohen] What we have to do now is start specific talks, and that is another issue in which we have already made some progress with Mexico. Guatemala has already contacted.... [pauses] I am aware that the vice minister of the economy has made certain arrangements with Mr. Herminio Blanco, Mexican foreign relations under secretary, to start bilateral talks with Mexico as soon as possible. I hope these talks can take place together with representatives of the other Central American nations.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the Central American presidents could meet with President Bill Clinton. Has this been [words indistinct]?

[Cohen] We are doing that, but do you have any idea how difficult it is to coordinate the agenda of seven presidents? It takes some time to do. The White House has expressed its interest in seeing this meeting come through. We are also trying to make sure that this meeting will develop.

[Reporter] When would this meeting take place?

[Cohen] As soon as we can get it moving. There is much willingness from Washington to do it as soon as possible.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Cohen] Initially the six Central American presidents would be traveling to Washington. If you agree, I would like to discuss another issue that you will find interesting. I am willing to respond to any question.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Cohen] Yes, that would be the perfect solution. We must reach an agreement with the workers. I must confess that we find it a bit difficult to reach an agreement, because.... [pauses] We need more unity within the workers group.

The diverse groups must have a more unified position. Sometimes we make progress with one group and then not so with the other. It is difficult for us to speak with so many different workers representatives. The workers should provide a mechanism that will assure that the dialogue we will engage with them represents all of the workers; therefore, I call on all of the diverse Guatemala workers groups to discuss jointly with us our economic future in terms of free trade.

[Reporter] Do you believe that Guatemala will be able to join the treaty given that a U.S. sector claims that certain products do not meet the quality or sanitary requirements demanded, for example the meat sector?

[Cohen] Yes. These are the kinds of problems to which we must pay a great deal of attention; nevertheless, I have faith in Guatemalan businessmen, as they have always demonstrated great enthusiasm. When there are clear rules.... [pauses] If we agree with the United States on clear rules, such as those on free trade, I am certain that our businessmen can manufacture quality products demanded by that market.

Another matter we discussed in the United States, besides NAFTA, was the General Preferential System

regarding authors' rights. As I said before—and as published yesterday in the media through statements by the foreign minister and statements from Washington—the work carried out by the Guatemalan mission was considered positive. The mission was comprised of the government sector as well as the private sector. Representatives from the Chamber of Industry, the Chamber of Commerce, the Association of Cable Television Operators, as well as representatives of the businessmen's chambers, accompanied us to that meeting.

We presented to the U.S. authorities the progress we have made in regulating cable television service in Guatemala, recognizing the signals' rights by making the corresponding payment. The signal is private property, and we must pay the owner for the use of something that is private; fortunately the Association of Cable Television Operators has understood this. They participated in the meeting and reached an agreement so that before year's end, the nine most important cable television operators in Guatemala City will have an agreement with the signals' owners; that is, an agreement between the private companies. The government will respect these conversations. We want the businessmen to reach an agreement among themselves; nevertheless, we will also be on the alert to ensure that the commitments are honored; otherwise, Guatemala, as a nation, will be penalized. The government cannot allow this kind of penalization. Those who had filed a complaint against Guatemala have now accepted that Guatemala is making significant progress to resolve the differences with the cable television operators, as well as regarding the authors' rights law.

Honduran President Callejas Congratulates Salinas

PA1911215693 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 19 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Honduran President Rafael Callejas disclosed today that he had congratulated his Mexican colleague, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, on the occasion of the U.S. approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and called on him "not to forget Central America."

The Honduran president spoke with Salinas de Gortari on 18 November via telephone and assured him that NAFTA's approval reinforces his leadership in the continent.

Callejas, who was involved in a helicopter accident from which he escaped uninjured, said that in addition to congratulating Salinas de Gortari, he also reminded him of his "commitment not to forget Central America as it relates to NAFTA projects."

The Central American countries are requesting privileges similar to what the free trade agreement is offering Mexico to join the U.S. market.

"We are seeking the same NAFTA conditions or advantages," Callejas said and also expressed his hopes that Mexico will "pave the avenues in favor of Central America."

FIDEG Issues Preliminary Study on Benefits

PA2111024093 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 20 Nov 93 p 10

[Report by Erving Sanchez]

[Text] The flow of Mexican trade to the United States will increase when the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) goes into effect, but this will be at the expense of Central America, because the competitiveness of the region's products will erode under the new conditions that will prevail within that new trade bloc.

The new bloc emerged due to the U.S. need to recover its commercial competitiveness with its European and Asian rivals. The perception that Central American economies will be drained by the new agreement was formulated by the International Foundation for the Global Economic Challenge [Fundacion Internacional para el Desafio Economico Global—FIDEG] in a preliminary study conducted by its research team.

FIDEG researchers also maintain that NAFTA will not only have an effect on the domestic economies of each of the region's countries but on their ties with the world market. The FIDEG preliminary study does not mention Nicaragua because of its meager trade with the rest of Central America; nevertheless, because it has in progress a structural adjustment program that emphasizes opening its economy to the international market, it is more exposed to the effects of this type of treaty between more developed economies.

The analysis by the economic research organization reaches the conclusion that Central America will also lose certain preferences it enjoyed in the U.S. market to Mexican products. The privileges granted by the U.S. market to Central American products are included in the Caribbean Basin Initiative (ICC), the General Preference System (SGP) with Canada, and the Partial Scope Agreements signed with Mexico and the countries of the region.

The agreement between the United States, Canada, and Mexico, which was recently approved by the U.S. Congress, guarantees, in the judgment of the researchers, free access for agricultural products and will eliminate volume restrictions in the commercialization of textiles, clothing, and services. According to the agreement, the United States will immediately reduce tariffs on 84 percent of its trade with Mexico. Tariffs will be reduced on 92 percent of this trade within five years from the date of the agreement's enforcement, on 99 percent in 10 years, and will totally disappear in 15 years.

NAFTA, in fact, has a fuller preferential framework than the ICC's preferential tariffs which, so far, virtually have not been taken advantage of by Nicaragua for the placement of its products in the U.S. market.

FIDEG projections show that during the first five years of NAFTA's implementation, Central America will see its privileges within the ICC framework erode by 15 percent, affecting such products as flowers, plants, cattle on the hoof, melons, watermelons, strawberries, pineapple juice, tomato, cucumber, eggplant, and asparagus, among others.

Over a 15 year period, the rules and regulations governing plant sanitation [fitosanitarias] and the environment will also affect Central American exports, among them sugar, which implies that to compete the Central American nations will have to form closer regional bonds and make large investments within the framework of a money market [mercado de capitales] that will be increasingly narrow and tough. In this case, Nicaragua as a primary exporter, will also find its sugar, meat, and clothing allocations displaced in the U.S. market by higher quality Mexican products.

Costa Rica and Guatemala, nevertheless, will be the most affected in the area of textile and clothes production, followed by El Salvador, Honduras, and finally Nicaragua.

Panamanian Foreign Minister, Industrialist Cited

PA2111005693 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 20 Nov 93 p 16B

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas and Eduardo Soto P.]

[Text] Panamanian Industrialists Association (SIP) President Luis Barraza de Freitas says that Panama has "never" engaged in long-term economic planning and he recommended caution with regard to commercial openness to avoid "intensifying" unemployment and poverty in the country.

In contrast, former Comptroller Ruben Carles warned that Panama must accelerate its entry into GATT—which demands commercial openness—and must decide as soon as possible whether participation in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) will be negotiated in an isolated manner or in a bloc.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Jose Raul Mulino said that NAFTA is an "open window" for Panama, but he explained that the issue is "complex," because the country must first make "profound structural adjustments" to its economy.

Regarding the opening of markets, Barraza de Freitas said that certain countries believe they are entitled to send their "industrial and agricultural surplus" to the Latin American nations, while imposing restrictions on our exports.

According to Barraza, our country only prepares "little plans or little politically oriented things... that foster uncertainty everywhere." He cited the case of the measures adopted by the United States to protect tobacco producers in Carolina [as published], which have "eliminated" Panamanians who were once devoted to that activity. He also pointed out the quotas imposed on Latin American bananas in Europe.

Carles will attend a meeting in Chiriqui today with businessmen, during which he will discuss the need to study Panama's position—considering the general situation and the country's prospects—in order to make urgent decisions concerning GATT and NAFTA.

Participation in a plan of NAFTA's magnitude cannot be based solely on "expressions of resolve." Foreign Minister Mulino said, while acknowledging that Panama cannot yet operate bilaterally in that market. In the foreign minister's opinion, to conduct the negotiations through the Central American bloc would be an option for Panama.

Barraza de Freitas concluded that this issue of openness must be "viewed very closely and handled very carefully because they paint a very lovely picture for us but in the end our economies are the ones that suffer."

Argentine Foreign Minister: No 'Bed of Roses'

PY1911185993 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Report by Gaston Sulaye from Martin Garcia Island]

[Text] Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella joined the president of the Republic, Carlos Menem, in his meeting with Uruguayan President Luis Lacalle and Uruguayan Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu on Martin Garcia Island.

After the meeting, Di Tella also discussed the North America Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] signed by Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Guido Di Tella said the following on the issue of Argentina and the neighboring countries joining NAFTA:

[Begin recording] [Di Tella] This is not restricted to the three signatory countries, but—even though I am not indulging in wishful thinking by hoping it will be accomplished next year—it is, in a certain way, for the entire region.

[Sulaye] Nevertheless, is the Argentine Foreign Ministry viewing any mechanisms to raise this proposal?

[Di Tella] Look, there is now a very clear mechanism involving Mercosur [Common Market of the South] and the revival of the so-called Four-Plus-One negotiations, that is, the negotiations between the four Mercosur countries and the United States. This would now be Four-Plus-Three, including the three NAFTA countries. This is something possible. It is not so remote.

Brazil will have elections next year and a new government will be installed on 1 January 1995. At this moment, I believe there are conditions for making a proposal. We will see what happens with Brazilian politics, what happens with Argentine politics, and what happens with NAFTA. Then there will be conditions to begin negotiating seriously. Thus, ...

[Sulaye, interrupting] Mr. Foreign Minister, how long do you believe it will take for Argentina, as a country, to join NAFTA?

[Di Tella] Look, I am telling you that I believe that in 1995 we will be able to dynamically discuss this entry.

I am telling you that joining NAFTA has advantages and disadvantages. Everyone here is talking a lot about NAFTA as if it were a magic word. And it is a very important word, but it is not a magic word because it will involve more competition, not only with the Mercosur countries, but—no more, no less—with the United States of America, Canada, and Mexico. This will be very tough competition. Some entrepreneurial areas will not be able to handle this competition while other areas will benefit significantly from this competition because the North American market will be opened to them.

Nevertheless, it is not a bed of roses. As Mercosur is not a bed of roses, much less so NAFTA. Nevertheless, [words indistinct] a bed of roses.

[Sulaye] Are there more advantages than disadvantages?

[Di Tella] There are clearly more advantages than disadvantages and more long-term than short-term advantages.

[Sulaye] Now it seems to be more viable, as a strategy for Argentina, to wait for an approach via Mercosur because the fact of having problems already with establishing a common import tariff ...

[Di Tella, interrupting] Look, it would be totally strange to not have any problems in implementing the common import tariff. About 80 percent of our products that we are trading will have or already are having ... [pauses] There is no problem in establishing a common import tariff. [end recording]

These were the remarks made by Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella about the possibility of our country joining NAFTA.

Report Analyzes Harmful Effects

PY1911215493 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 18 Nov 93 p 24

[Article by Eleonora Gasman; quotation marks and figures as published]

[Text]—The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is discriminatory, like all regional agreements.

—This discriminatory nature can only harm Argentina, because of diversion of investment and trade.

—While Argentina remains outside NAFTA, Argentine exports to the United States, Mexico, and Canada will drop.

—It's not only that: The increase in production of NAFTA countries will divert investment, which Argentina and other countries could have received if the principle of most favored nation had been in force.

These are four central conclusions reached by Julio Nogues, the Argentine representative to the World Bank. The circulation of this "paper" [preceding word in English] by Nogues, which CLARIN had access to, has been restricted. Along with other materials, the Foreign Ministry is using it to adopt a political position.

Argentina's trade with NAFTA is not an irrelevant fact. The NAFTA market absorbs 10 percent of Argentine exports—26 percent goes to Mercosur [Common Market of the South]. Yet within NAFTA, the United States is, far and away, the main client: It buys 9.1 percent of Argentina's exports, while Mexico buys 2 percent. Over the past two years, Mexico's interest in importing Argentine products has decreased: In 1991, Mexico bought 5 percent of Argentina's exports. Exchange with Canada is almost nonexistent.

Nogues noted that Agentina must fight with Canada, Mexico, and Chile in the U.S. market. Those countries are competitors for 30 percent of the most important products that Argentina sells to the United States. Nogues said that if Chile joins NAFTA before Argentina does, it could "have a very serious effect on our exports to the United States."

The loss of the Mexican market is also a risk. In this market "our main competitor is the United States." Nogues estimated that "more than 90 percent of our exports will lose competitiveness." He said that it is in Mexico where "NAFTA can have a higher potential cost for Argentina."

Nogues outlined the following picture:

—One-third of Argentina's exports to NAFTA will be less competitive.

—Investment will be diverted. He said that commercial barriers are now established on the basis of the principle of most favored nation. But after implementation of NAFTA, and after the reduction of tariffs among the three partners, this principle will be undermined. Under such conditions, Argentina "will lose exports and investment."

—Nogues estimated that investment diversion is already underway. Multinational enterprises, which are almost sure of NAFTA's success, have set in motion projects to increase their offer in a market of 364 million consumers.

—Preferences concentrate on Mexico. In this country, direct foreign investment has more than doubled since 1989. The intensification of this process will expand the effects on Argentina.

—Brazil will have its own share of suffering. U.S. investments in this country have grown at a very slow rate (despite everything, today they stand at $15 billion).

—In the political area, Nogues noted that Chile tried to negotiate joining NAFTA at the time it was created, but the three partners rejected the request. Chile does not believe Argentina will soon join the agreement. On the contrary, Chile believes it is a "remote possibility."

At a world level, this raises questions for Argentines: "How strong should the political support for the creation of the agreement be." Nogues said that at the last meeting of the "Council of the Americas," Mickey Kantor said that the United States can negotiate bilateral agreements with Latin American countries. Yet he noted that "from an economic viewpoint, bilateral agreements are less profitable than broader regional agreements... Considering that the U.S. bargaining power is much stronger," it can obtain "a disproportionate share of the earnings of such agreements. "This shows that we have to be very careful about the degree of support that we extend to that initiative."

Nogues said that NAFTA has several "extremely protectionist factors" that might harm Argentina's commercial opening. He recommended that "we should carefully evaluate the commercial reactions of the rest of the world, especially Europe and Japan."

Brazilian Foreign Minister on Government Reaction

PY2011231593 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Nov 93 p B13

[Interview with Foreign Minister Celso Amorim by Oswaldo Ribas; place and date not given]

[Text] Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim has become enthusiastic about the approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) by the U.S. House of Representatives. Amorim believes, however, that for Brazil and other Latin American countries the most important thing now is to end the Uruguay Round of GATT in compliance with the pre-established deadline, i.e., 15 December.

[Ribas] Minister, how does the Brazilian Government view the U.S. decision—now approved by the House of Representatives—to establish a free trade zone with Mexico and Canada?

[Amorim] Our reaction is positive in view of the initiative's liberalizing aspect. NAFTA's impact will benefit trade in the entire hemisphere in the sense that, with its approval, the protectionist bloc—particularly the United States—loses force.

[Ribas] Will Brazilian-U.S. bilateral trade change in any way after NAFTA?

[Amorim] Some Brazilian products commonly exported to the United States will be affected because, as a result of NAFTA, Mexico will have preferential tariffs and Mexican exports thus will become more competitive. I can cite three examples: concentrated orange juice, processed beef, and textiles.

[Ribas] In your opinion, could the Uruguay Round of GATT neutralize NAFTA's negative aspects on Brazilian exports?

[Amorim] It certainly can. From the Brazilian point of view, problems resulting from NAFTA will become worse if the Uruguay Round is not concluded before 15 December. Our orange juice exports to the United States, for example, would immediately benefit from the 15 percent customs fee reduction that all GATT member countries will have to implement when the Uruguay Round is ratified.

[Ribas] With its eyes set on NAFTA, Argentina is beginning to discuss the possibility of postponing the Common Market of the South [Mercosur] integration goals. What do you think of that?

[Amorim] This is an Argentine domestic problem. They must discuss what they think is best for their country. Concretely, however, we can see that the Mercosur trade integration process is proving very beneficial: Brazilian exports to Argentina increased 25 percent, while Argentine product imports increased 70 percent, thus contributing to reducing Buenos Aires' trade deficit.

[Ribas] Will the integration process deadlines be maintained?

[Amorim] It is too early to talk about postponing deadlines. Mercosur's D-day, however, is approaching. In a year, the four countries that signed the Asuncion Treaty will have to reduce their regional trade customs fees to zero and establish a common external fee, and this is perhaps the largest challenge of the entire process in view of the structural differences between Argentine and Brazilian industry.

Concessions To Affect Brazil

PY1911190693 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Nov 93 p B20

[Text] Brazil will not be the only country affected by the protectionist concessions the White House had to make in order to save NAFTA. An agreement imposed on Mexico two weeks ago should preserve Brazilian sugar sales to the U.S. market ($67 million in 1992) for some time. Another agreement, dealing with citrus fruits, will

force Mexico to maintain its prices in order to avoid losing NAFTA's tariff reduction.

At this end, this clause will attenuate but not prevent the withdrawal of Brazilian citrus fruit products in the next 15 years with the elimination of the tariff on Mexican-made juice. Harry Kopp, a partner of the LA-Motley & Co. lobbying group, which has already represented Brazilian citrus fruit exporters in the United States, told O ESTADO: "NAFTA has been designed to make Mexican juice replace Brazilian juice—not Florida juice—on the U.S. market."

Brazilian exporters today supply more than 80 percent of the citrus juice imported by the United States. Sales in 1992 surpassed $400 million. Mexico's current share of this market is only 10 percent, but it has doubled in the past five years and continues to grow.

In order to attract votes in favor of NAFTA, the White House made the following concessions to the farm industry lobby, which receives 80 percent of U.S. export subsidies:

—Stronger meat origin regulations will be adopted to prevent Australian and New Zealander cattle breeders from exporting meat to the United States via Mexico. Last year, sales by U.S. cattle breeders and meat packing plants reached $38 billion.

—The United States will impose export restrictions on Canadian peanut butter in 60 days if this country does not limit its sales. Peanut farming and processing yields $1.3 billion annually in the United States.

—Washington will limit Canadian wheat sales in the United States in 60 days unless the Ottawa government eliminates the subsidies on transportation and sales.

—Washington will temporarily impose tariffs on Mexican cucumbers if importation causes a substantial price drop. The United States also will limit to 15 percent the reduction of their tariffs on imported cucumbers at the Uruguay round of GATT talks.

Chilean Finance Minister Interviewed

PY1911125793 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Interview with Chilean Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley by television anchorman Bernardo de la Maza 'this afternoon'; place not given]

[Text] [De la Maza] Minister, is the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] good for the country? And how good?

[Foxley] I think it is good for all of Latin America, including Chile, because it opens the possibility of entering a market of 300 million individuals—the North American market—to all South American countries that are doing well economically and politically.

[De la Maza] When do you think this agreement might become a reality? Some press reports say that President Bill Clinton is so tired that he is not willing to start fighting for Chile just now and that he will spend more time on other national issues.

[Foxley] I was very impressed by him. I met with President Clinton in New York about two weeks ago. I was introduced to him and before I could ask anything he told me: Minister, Chile is next, do not have any doubts. You can tell this to President [Patricio] Aylwin. Therefore, Chile is present. But this does not mean that things will occur immediately. I think the U.S. Government has been worn out by this fight. Besides, it is now preoccupied by reforming health care, which is in crisis. As with all things in international politics, this agreement will take time, but it is important to persevere in pursuing this goal.

[De la Maza] Critics in the country said that you played all your cards for an agreement with the United States putting aside—even if only partially—the important area of Asia and the Pacific and Latin America.

[Foxley] What happened was that the president gave me the specific commission, as the finance minister, of working for an agreement with North America. The Economy Ministry was put in charge of South America, or Latin America in general. I have not put too much effort...[pauses] We closed a free trade agreement with Mexico in less than a year. Then we obviously worked for an agreement with the United States and Canada.

[De la Maza] Today, however, Chile's application to enter the APEC [Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation] group this year was rejected.

[Foxley] That was an erroneous news report that appeared this morning. I was reading it when I received a call from [U.S.] Secretary of the Treasury Lloyd Bentsen, a friend of mine, who told me that he had just received a call from Secretary of State Warren Christopher from Seattle—where the presidents of the APEC member countries are meeting—to officially communicate to me that APEC had decided to accept Chile as a full member as of next year, not this year, but at next year's meeting in Jakarta. This shows that the U.S. Government has changed its position and is now more favorable toward Chile. I am very glad because we and the Foreign Ministry worked very hard on this issue. I spent 10 days in the United States working on the issue. I think we were very successful.

[De la Maza] Besides, this step is very important, is it not?

[Foxley] It has an essential strategic importance for Chile. Chile already exports half of its products to the Pacific region. From a geopolitical point of view it is very important. Chile must look to the Pacific and grow toward the Pacific. Our horizon will broaden enormously if we want to build a solid and dynamic economy. It will also be a very important political

alliance, particularly because Europe is increasingly closing up—forming what some people call the European fortress—and is becoming a protectionist region.

[De la Maza] Will many Chilean companies be seriously affected by the zero tariff?

[Foxley] I do not think so. I have great faith and trust in Chilean entrepreneurs. They have proven to have a great capacity to compete with any country in any condition. Besides, NAFTA has established a period of 10 years before reaching the zero tariff level. With Mexico we agreed to reach the zero tariff level in four years and we are not encountering any problems. We are currently introducing our fruits into the Mexico market. We are beginning to export manufactured goods. We will start exporting forestry products as well. This trade is enormously beneficial to Chile because Chile exports 35 percent of its total production. I am optimistic. I think this will give a new and great push to Chilean companies and entrepreneurs and will open new employment possibilities for workers and young people who are joining the work force.

[De la Maza] What about Chile's negotiating power to face problems in other markets. Are we going to seek joint actions?

[Foxley] I would not take for granted that we will join NAFTA. I think the most sensible thing for Chile at this time is to strengthen its ties with Latin America. I think we must quickly seek agreements, without risking NAFTA, with countries like Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, Argentina, and Brazil because in the end the only way to defend ourself in Latin America if protectionism prevails in developing countries is to jointly negotiate the access to those markets. And to do that we need a lot of political power.

[De la Maza] That means that we also need a Latin American block.

[Foxley] Correct. And I do not think these two things are incompatible.

[De la Maza] Thank you very much Minister.

Ecuadoran Minister Says NAFTA 'Historic'

PA1911003693 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Nov 93

[From "The Voz Andes" newscast]

[Text] Carlos Larreategui, deputy presidency minister of the Republic, has described the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] between the United States, Canada, and Mexico as a historic event because it constitutes the seed for the continent's unification.

[Begin Larreategui recording, in progress] ....congratulate NAFTA's approval, which I think is the start of a new continental system in the area of trade and integration. I think one has to recognize the great courage and initiative of President Clinton, who with the approval of this agreement is noticeably strengthening his leadership, and Vice President Al Gore.

In any case, I think that for Latin America the approval of this agreement presents great prospects for the future. As I said earlier, this is the seed for a hemispheric trade agreement that will bring many benefits to the people of this continent. This forms the biggest trade market in the world and opens unprecedented economic opportunities for trade and technological transfers.

Ecuador, as the other Latin American countries, will have great possibilities in this market, and in the future we will have to think about establishing closer relations with these countries which have consolidated their future economic integration through the free trade agreement. [end recording]

Guyanese Trade Minister Foresees 'Difficulties'

FL1911031693 Bridgetown CANA in English 2124 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Report by Urrell Wilkinson]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 18 Nov, CANA—The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) could pose some difficulties for the Caribbean Community, Guyana's trade and tourism minister, Michael Shree Chand, said Thursday.

"NAFTA is a reality which has got to be treated as such," Shree Chand told CANA. "This is something which governments like ours will have to take into consideration and to see how we can fashion our policies and programmes to accommodate that."

The agreement was passed by 34 votes in the U..S Congress late Wednesday night after heated and sometimes emotional debate by lawmakers. It proposes to establish the world's largest trading bloc, involving the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

Shree Chand said he did not think it immediately posed a "serious threat" to Guyana and the Caribbean because the region was not a party to the controversial pact and was still protected by Caribbean Community (Caricom) arrangements. "But it can in the future pose some threat in the sense that when we should have acceded to NAFTA, then the competitive advantage will not be there for countries like ours, where our industries need to be retooled badly," he told CANA. He, however, predicted that the emerging competition will force industries to retool and become more effecient to capitalise on the broader market. Asked if Caricom should become part of NAFTA, Shree Chand said: "I think, ultimately, we'll have to become part of NAFTA because it affords us an opportunity to accessing a larger market, but that will be solely dependant on whether we can take advantage of that larger market."

Shree Chand, also responsible for industry, said regional factories were obselete and technology "way behind" that of competitors in North America, Europe, and Asia. "We need to bring our industries in line with more modern technology so as to compete effectively on a larger market," the minister said. The Caribbean, he added, would have to negotiate a gestation period similar to Canada's—if and when the region joined the three-nation pact—to facilitate the upgrading of the area's plants and machinery. He added: "This is something we must seriously consider so that our local businessmen will be in a position to compete and to have a competitive advantage."

Peruvian Foreign Minister Goldenberg Comments

PA2011014693 Paris AFP in Spanish 1731 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Lima, 19 Nov (AFP)—Peruvian Foreign Minister Efrain Goldenberg said today that the North American Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA, marks the beginning of a new tendency in continental economic relations, but the process for Peru's integration will be "slow and gradual." "It will not be easy, not even for Mexico, a member of the agreement, to adapt to the new circumstances. It will be a slow process that could last 15 years," Minister Goldenberg told the media. With regard to a clause for joining the treaty, Goldenberg said this will take place later in the future and gradually, because it will depend on how countries adapt to the new international market.

Meanwhile, Gonzalez Izquierdo, dean of the Association of Economists, said NAFTA will basically benefit Mexico. "Through that nation, however, Latin America has taken its first step in joining the large markets in the United States and Canada," he added.

According to Beatriz Ramacciotti, director of the Institute for International Studies, NAFTA, the European Union, and new economic blocs will set the parameters for international economic relations in the next century. "Because we are in the same hemisphere, NAFTA could be the best venue for Peru to seek a broader market," she added.

Jurist Andres Aramburu Menchaca, dean of the Peruvian Bar Association, said "the creation of a bloc in America that can compete with other blocs in the world is an interesting development." "Although economic changes will not occur immediately, he noted, decisions have been made already, such as establishing deadlines to eliminate customs duties, which will have positive effects on the continent."

Chamber of Commerce President Comments

PA2011030393 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Nov 93

[From the "Global TV News" newscast]

[Text] Samuel Glasser, Chamber of Commerce president, and EEC representative Sabato de la Monica have said that the North American Free Trade Agreement is of transcendental importance for Latin America and could contribute to agreements at the GATT Uruguay Round.

[Begin recording] [Glasser] I think, from the point of view of shelving protectionism, that on the United States' part this agreement is of transcendental importance for all of the Latin American countries. It is a bad example for the EC, and we have noticed indications that there could be some perfecting effort. [sentence as heard]

I think this will contribute to a prompt GATT agreement.

[De la Monica] The reaction of our president, Jacques Delors, has been very positive. He immediately sent a letter to President Bill Clinton congratulating him over this first phase toward a very positive conclusion of the treaty.

The three countries will be working to increase, of course, their intraregional trade, but we foresee a positive future for Latin America and world trade as well. [end recording]

Czech Prime Minister Welcomes Agreement

AU1911210493 Prague CTK in English 1328 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Prague, 19 Nov (CTK)— The ratification of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) by the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress is an excellent signal that ways must be found to dismantle all trade barriers, Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus said today.

Shortly after registering his voucher book for the second round of coupon privatization, Klaus said that the conclusion of the agreement would not have an immediate and direct influence on the Czech economy. While on an official visit to Mexico last month, he said, he had asserted that Congress would ratify the agreement. I said that I could not imagine that Congress would send such a bad signal by not ratifying the agreement, and I am glad I was not mistaken, Klaus said today.

If NAFTA is also ratified by the Mexican Parliament and approved by Canadian prime minister, whose parliament has already ratified it, the agreement will go into effect on January 1, 1994. It will eventually eliminate customs and other barriers against the movement of goods, services, and investments among these three countries, thus creating the largest free trade zone in the world, with some 360 million consumers. Some customs duties will be abolished immediately, and others will be dropped gradually, in five, 10 and 15 years.

Romanian President Iliescu Congratulates Clinton

AU2111142393 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 0500 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Romania's President Ion Iliescu has sent a message to U.S. President Bill Clinton congratulating him on the fact that the NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement] treaty has been passed in the U.S. Senate. Iliescu assesses that accord as an important step made toward economic upswing and the establishment of new and more healthy international economic relations, including Romanian-U.S. economic relations in the current context created by the granting of the most-favored-nation status to Romania.

PRC Foreign Ministry Reacts to Vote

OW1911094893 Beijing XINHUA in English 0937 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Beijing, 19 November (XINHUA)—China hopes that NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement] will be an open, GATT-consistent regional trade organization that stands for global trade liberalization, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said here today.

The spokesman made this remark when asked to comment on the vote of the U.S. House of Representatives, which is in favor of NAFTA.

The spokesman said, "we have taken note of the relevant report. What impact NAFTA will have on China and the Asia-Pacific region will be determined by the direction of its future development."

"China has all along attached importance to its economic and trade exchanges with the U.S., Canada and Mexico," the spokesman said. "We hope that our economic and trade relations with this region will continue to grow."

Malaysian Trade Minister Reacts to Approval

BK1911074293 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Malaysia hopes that the North American Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA, between the United States, Canada, and Mexico will not be discriminatory to third countries in terms of market access.

International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz, who is in Seattle to attend the APEC [Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation] ministerial meeting, said challenges lie ahead with or without NAFTA. The challenge is for Malaysia to be competitive or more competitive than others. She was responding to the White House victory on the agreement. The House of Representatives has voted 244 [number as heard] to 200 in favor of NAFTA after a lengthy and sometimes emotional debate.

On the possibility that investors would now flock to Mexico with NAFTA, Datuk Sri Rafidah said as long as Malaysia can provide the basic ingredients for viability, profitability and security of tenure of investments, people still will come to Malaysia.

South Korean Government Begins Studying Impact

SK1911060493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0214 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 19 (YONHAP)—The government started on Thursday studying the possible impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on South Korea's exports next year, as the pact creating the world's largest trading bloc was ratified by the U.S. Congress on Wednesday for implementation in January.

Measures to be studied include strengthening the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum and developing the region into an open and free trade zone in order to keep the NAFTA from becoming an exclusive trade club like the European Community, a government official said Thursday.

In addition, corporate investment in Mexico will be encouraged for easier exports to the United States through this NAFTA-signatory country. For this, the government will seek to hold a meeting of the Korea-Mexico Economic Cooperation Committee next February, when Mexico completes establishment of a foreign investment guarantee law.

NAFTA is expected to put a dent in the country's exports to the United States, which account for 26 percent of total exports, it was agreed at a working-level government-industry meeting held at the Trade, Industry and Energy Ministry.

Stricter country of origin rules will make it harder for Korean firms to export cars and electronic consumer goods, including color television sets, to the United States through Mexico. Moreover, Korean firms already operating in Mexico will have to shift to NAFTA-area suppliers from their parent firms in Korea for components and parts of these items.

Investment in Mexico by U.S., European and Japanese firms will greatly increase to make the country highly competitive in technology and price not only in the NAFTA market but in other markets.

Workers Party Selects Presidential Candidate

PA1911202593 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1735 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Mexico City, 15 Nov (EFE)—Last night the opposition Labor Party (PT) selected Mexican Deputy Cecilia Soto as its candidate for the Mexican presidency for 1994-2000, the PT reported today, Monday. Soto received the support of 700 of the 742 delegates who participated in the PT congress in Monterrey—the third most important city in Mexico—and her candidacy was announced to approximately 12,000 party members. In her speech as PT presidential candidate, Soto proposed social and democratic changes "to build a new, pluralistic, participatory, and modern society." The candidate criticized the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) and the National Action Party (PAN), which hold several state governorships, for "abandoning the hope for fairness and implementing a program where unfairness and injustice are considered tolerable and necessary evils."

In addition to Soto, the August 1994 presidential elections will feature Cuauhtemoc Cardenas as the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) candidate. The PRD is the third-ranking political force in Mexico. The governing PRI has still not selected a candidate. Other political groups have several pre-candidates and have yet to make a final choice.

CCE President on Government Economic Plan

PA2011145393 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2213 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Nov (NOTIMEX)—The Business Coordinating Council [CCE] believes the economic program proposed by Mexican Treasury Secretary Pedro Aspe is feasible and that the national effort must continue to build a better future.

CCE President Luis German Carcoba Garcia said Aspe's presentation of the program entitled General Criteria for Economic Policy in 1994 held "no surprises" and contained agreements made in the Stability, Competitiveness, and Employment Pact (PECE).

The business leader emphasized: "In reality, we negotiated for weeks with the authorities and other sectors involved. In general terms, what was presented on Monday closely follows what was agreed upon."

Carcoba acknowledged, however, that the economic programs would continue to be costly for business and society as we must continue to work at a macroeconomic level to achieve a microeconomy.

He said the economic environment in which Mexicans thrive implies evolution by businessmen and society and that cultural changes and aid to improve the country's infrastructure are needed.

Carcoba added that this year's growth has been "minimal" but should increase in 1994 so long as a 5-percent inflation rate is feasible.

Mexican Treasury Secretary Aspe pointed out on Monday that during the first quarter of 1993, economic activity increased 1.3 percent compared to the same period last year.

He predicted that the 1993 gross domestic product (GDP) would reach an average 1.1 percent in real growth, which is less than that estimated in November of last year. Aspe also emphasized that the greater penetration of manufactured goods exports into the world markets shows the growing competitiveness of the economy, and because of this from January 1989 to August 1993 nonpetroleum exports have increased at a rate eight times greater than that of Mexico's principal commercial partners. He added that the rapid transformation of the productive base has allowed a marked reversal in the commercial balance that will be observed beginning in 1993.

PDM, Others To Form National Opposition Union

PA2111221893 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1620 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Mrida, Mexico, 20 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Marcelo Gaxiola Felix, national leader of the Mexican Democratic Party (PDM), said here his party, in coordination with other organizations, will join efforts to form the National Opposition Union (UNO).

He added that the new group will try to create a new current of Social Christian thought, which is considered to be a vanguard ideology, because it has allowed such countries as Belgium, The Netherlands, Sweden, Italy, Germany, and Chile to reach democratic paths.

Gaxiola Felix pointed out that the 105,000 members of his party, who are also members of the parliamentarian bloc of the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution (PARM), as well as legislators and local leaders, have expressed interest in joining UNO. He said that the Mexican Green Ecologist Party (PEVM) views the idea of establishing UNO favorably, but "it has not yet decided to be part of UNO." Meanwhile, the Labor Party (PT), which was also invited to join, did not accept the offer.

Gaxiola Felix also said that former members of the National Action Party (PAN) and the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) and some advocates of the San Luis Potosi Civic Front [Frente Civico Potosino], National Unions of Users and Taxpayers [Uniones Nacionales de Usuarios y Contribuyentes], and the Trade Unions of Free Workers also expressed their interest in joining UNO.

On 5 December, he added, UNO will hold a convention to select its presidential candidate for the 1994 elections.

Victor Atilano Gomez and Marcelo Gaxiola Felix himself are among the presidential hopefuls.

On 28 November, the Mexican State of Yucatan will hold elections to choose a new governor, 106 mayors, and 15 deputies.

Solidaridad I Satellite Lifted Into Orbit

PA2011030093 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0132 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Korou, French Guiana, 19 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Mexico launched its satellite "Solidaridad I" today at 0117 GMT from the Korou Space Base in French Guiana. Once in orbit around Earth, this satellite will give Mexicans the opportunity to broaden and modernize their telecommunications network.

Also "traveling" in rocket Ariane-44 LP, which lifted satellite Solidaridad, was European satellite Meteosat-6, which will carry out observation missions and meteorological experiments.

For that purpose, French enterprise Ariane Space, which signed a contract with the Mexican Government, selected an Ariane-44 LP equipped with two support rockets with liquid fuel and two others with gunpowder, which will take their "passengers" weighing almost 3.5 tons to an orbit 36,000 km above the Earth's surface.

Solidaridad I, which is seen as one of the most advanced satellites in the world in view of its top technology in design and construction, has a wide operational capacity and longer life expectancy than the two Mexican satellites "Morelos I and II" launched in June and November 1985.

This is the first of two French-made satellites the Mexican Government will put into orbit to cover the communications needs of private, government, and banking institutions, as well as radio and television stations, and telephone companies. The Solidaridad satellites will cover transmission requirements for Latin American countries that for economic reasons cannot have their own satellite system.

The Solidaridad satellites were designed not only to cover the Mexican national territory, but also a considerable part of the United States and a small area of Canada (Montreal and Toronto) in the "Ku" band, all of the Caribbean, Central and South America, and the cities of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, in the "C" band.

Mexico's entrance into the International Satellite Communications (Intelsat) in 1966, which was ratified in 1971, and the utilization of communications via satellite for the 1968 Olympic games marked the beginning of the satellite era for that country.

As an Intelsat member, Mexico for nearly two years utilized the organization's local and international communications services, until the Secretariat of Communications put into operation the Morelos satellite system in 1985.

The Morelos domestic satellite system, made up of two satellites built by the U.S. corporation Hughes Aircraft Communications International, was orbited in June and November 1985 by the NASA space shuttles Discovery and Atlantis.

The Solidarity I satellite has been orbited in view of both the imminent technical necessity of replacing the Morelos system and the country's greater telecommunications demand. Solidarity II will be put into orbit on a still unspecified date.

The second generation of Mexican satellites was built by Hughes Aircraft Communications International and orbited by Ariane Space. One of the two satellites orbited today is cylindrical and stabilized on all three axes. It is 11 meters in diameter, 6.66 meters high, and 25.5 meters wide with its antenna array.

The Solidarity I satellite will give Mexico updated access to the global economy and worldwide services in addition to independent transmission of voice, video, and computer data signals.

As it is with the Morelos system, Mexican engineers will control the Solidarity system. Once the satellites have been orbited, Mexico will have absolute control over them. A ground tracking, telemetry, command, and monitoring station, whose function is to keep in contact with the satellites and service users, has been built. This is something the Morelos system lacked.

The orbiting of the Solidarity satellites will put Mexico in the lead in satellite technology and give Mexico a place among the world's first six countries with modern space installations with the capability of meeting domestic and continental telecommunications needs.

Belize

Border Delimitation Treaty Signed With Mexico

PA2011162793 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0915 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Belmopan, 19 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Belize and Mexico signed a new Land and Water Delimitation Treaty during a bilateral meeting in this city. Local observers said that with this Thursday's signing of the document, the first in Belize's history as an independent country, Belize can consider itself a nation free of territorial problems.

At the meeting, the delegations analyzed the possibility of reaching a bilateral commercial agreement and concluded this country is not prepared to confront the challenge such an agreement would represent due to the differences in the degree of development. The trade balance between the two countries favors Mexico by 80 percent.

The second bilateral meeting, which began on 16 November, ended on 18 November with the promise to maintain communication between the two countries regarding matters of culture, technology, and trade, among others.

Costa Rica

Government Denies AID Closure Form of U.S. Reprisal

PA2011212093 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1921 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] San Jose, 20 Nov (NOTIMEX)—The Costa Rican Government has dismissed the possibility that the closing of the Agency for International Development (AID) offices and the gradual withdrawal of economic aid from the country constitute political reprisals on the part of the United States.

Presidency Minister Rolando Lacle said the decision is due to U.S. fiscal problems and not diplomatic discrepancies between the two countries. The U.S. Government is pressing Costa Rica for payment of millions of dollars in expropriations from U.S. citizens which, added to the lawsuit filed against the country by U.S. labor unions, have led to a diplomatic rift.

AID made a forceful incursion into the Central American region during the era of public upheaval in the eighties and began to decline at the end of the decade after the regional peace plan was signed.

Marco Vinicio Ruiz, president of the Union of Private Enterprise Chambers and Associations, has assured that the closing of AID in several Latin American countries is the result of the Democratic U.S. Government foreign policy and the need to support other regions of the world. He said that "Central America now represents little" in comparison to other regions such as the Eastern European countries which are demanding a large amount of economic resources.

The U.S. embassy in San Jose announced that the AID offices will be closed within three or four years, although AID will continue to support educational institutions established in the country. At present, AID is financing such projects as environmental protection, export promotions, state reforms, small business development, and the strengthening of democratic institutions. AID economic aid totaled $211 million in 1983, was reduced to $100 million in 1988 and last year dropped to almost $20 million.

PUSC Candidate on NAFTA Program

PA1911210693 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1717 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] San Jose, 19 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Miguel Angel Rodriguez, Social Christian Unity Party (PUSC) presidential candidate for the 8 February 1994 elections, has said that he will implement an "active and vigorous" program to incorporate Costa Rica into the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] signed between the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Miguel Angel Rodriguez, the candidate of the party currently governing the country, presented his government program to hundreds of PUSC members last night. The program states that NAFTA "is creating an unlimited market of opportunities for our country's commercial expansion. In today's world, nations are grouping in commercial blocs, and Costa Rica cannot stay behind," warns the 156-page government program which details the areas in which Rodriguez will focus if he wins the elections.

Presented under the title "MAR-94 Program: Opportunities for Solidarity and Progress," the government program will also strive to achieve the demilitarization of Central America, respect for human rights, and an economic opening. The "MAR-94 Program" furthers an "active participation" in GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) and other international trade forums and to expedite the negotiation processes on bilateral and multilateral treaties.

Regarding Central America, Miguel Angel Rodriguez's program indicates support for a "gradual economic integration" in terms similar to the ones promoted by the current government, which is headed by Rafael Angel Calderon, who belongs to his same party. The integration process should be carried out in phases: free trade zone, union of customs, and economic integration.

The program points out, however, that this process must be consolidated before considering an eventual political integration. "The experience of other regions has taught that political integration is only feasible and beneficial when it is agreed upon by fully democratic nations that

have a stable and homogeneous political, juridical, and institutional framework," the government program states.

Rodriguez will endeavor to establish a development basis in Costa Rica that will offer more opportunities to the poor and that will protect the country's natural resources. As the main points of his foreign policy, the PUSC candidate mentions human rights defense, demilitarization of the isthmus, protection of natural resources, and the furtherance of a commercial opening, especially by boosting negotiations with the United States to allow Costa Rica to join NAFTA.

Rodriguez will attempt to establish the Central American Conference for Civilian Society and Democracy, which would be a permanent, political and diplomatic forum "to promote effective ways to demilitarize the region." In this respect, he also wants to establish the Central American Demilitarization Fund, which would operate with allocations from developed nations and international organizations through a regional disarmament office, positioned in Costa Rica.

Rodriguez, a 53-year-old economist and lawyer, will contest for the Presidency with Jose Maria Figueres, a 38-year-old industrial engineer of the social democratic National Liberation Party, on 6 February 1994. According to the latest polls, Figueres has a slight lead over Rodriguez, but the distance between both candidates has narrowed down since June 1993.

Candidate Rodriguez Proposes War on Drug Trafficking

PA2111043093 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 11 Nov 93 p10A

[Report by Rodolfo Martin]

[Text] Social Christian presidential candidate Miguel Angel Rodriguez presented a plan yesterday calling for a direct war against drug trafficking. He sharply criticized his opponent, Jose Maria Figueres, who reportedly does not support the approval of three bills dealing with that issue.

The party leader, who made this announcement during a news conference that began at 0900, specifically referred to the general police law bill, the telephone wiretapping bill, and the bill dealing with the control of private landing strips. All three are currently in different stages at the Legislative Assembly.

Rodriguez said he not only discussed the subject with the National Liberation Party candidate, he later sent him a letter urging him to seek the Social Democrats' support. His faction has shown no interest in cooperating, the presidential candidate said.

When asked about Rodriguez' criticism, Figueres said the Social Christian candidate should criticize the Executive Branch policies on drugs. "The government is responsible for the citizens' safety," it was emphasized by Figueres shortly before participating in last night's debate with Rodriguez at the Second National Businessmen's Congress.

The direct war bill proposed by Rodriguez includes prevention, education, and rehabilitation strategies within a process that involves participation by the entire Costa Rican population.

El Salvador

Cristiani Swears In New Foreign Minister Salaverria

PA1911234393 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2041 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Official sources have reported that Miguel Angel Salaverria, former Salvadoran ambassador to the United States, took office today as Foreign Minister, replacing replace Manuel Pacas Castro.

The Foreign Ministry Press Office said that President Alfredo Cristiani swore in Salaverria at Government House and that the new chief of Salvadoran diplomacy immediately promised to maintain and improve the country's current foreign policy.

Pacas Castro left the post in early November, after taking office as director of the Central American Economic Integration Bank (BCIE).

The new foreign minister headed the Salvadoran diplomatic mission to Washington since July 1989 and until the first week of November of this year. Salaverria said he will bolster the ministry's administrative modernization and create a school of diplomacy in the country.

Salaverria on Exclusion From SGP

PA2011050793 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 19 Nov 93 p 3

[Text] Miguel Angel Salaverria, the new foreign minister, has said that El Salvador's economy would be severely harmed if the country is excluded from the list of nations that enjoy the benefits of the U.S. General Preference System [SGP]. The official, who up to now had been ambassador to Washington, will be sworn in today as the new foreign minister by President Alfredo Cristiani, to replace Dr. Jose Manuel Pacas, who is now president of the Central American Integration Bank.

Interviewed by EL DIARIO DE HOY at his new office yesterday, the new foreign minister, 66, said that most of the embassy resources were used to keep El Salvador on the SGP list. Nevertheless, he said that if the Labor Code with all of the ILO [International Labor Organization] recommendations is not approved as of 15 December, El Salvador will be excluded from the list of nations benefited by SGP.

According to Salaverria, El Salvador's exclusion from the SGP would cause "a tremendous impact on the country's economy" because El Salvador exports approximately $100 million yearly to the U.S. market. He also said the exclusion would harm the sesame producers, the sugar industry, and thousands of small-scale artisans and farmers whose products are exported to the United States. The most serious consequence of such an expulsion, he said, is that the country could also lose the benefits and rights enjoyed by the Caribbean Basin countries, such as assembly plants and other expanding industries, which are creators of jobs on a large scale. "I think the people promoting the exclusion of El Salvador from these rights are causing tremendous harm to the country, the economy, and all of the people," he said.

"A Great Ambassador"

Don Miguel Angel was dean of the Central American Diplomatic Corps in Washington and was viewed by his colleagues as "a great ambassador and a great friend," the diplomats said.

The new foreign minister is so well-known among the diplomatic community in Washington that his colleagues from Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, and the Dominican Republic accredited in that city arrived in San Salvador yesterday to accompany him during the swearing-in ceremony which was held this morning at the Presidential House.

Jaime Ford Boyd, Edmont Mulet, the Panamanian and Guatemalan ambassadors respectively, who are friends of Don Miguel Angel, visited EL DIARIO DE HOY yesterday, accompanied by Mrs. Ana Cristina Sol, who has been appointed Salvadoran ambassador to Washington. The diplomats agreed that Don Miguel Angel will "play an excellent role as foreign minister not only at the Central American level, but beyond." Mr. Ford Boyd recalled the long working hours he spent with the Salvadoran ambassador, who showed his leadership by uniting and integrating the Central American, Panamanian, and Dominican Republic ambassadors.

One of the last crusades undertaken by the Central American ambassadors was gradually achieving a parity of the region with Canada, the United States, and Mexico, the signatory countries of NAFTA.

Curriculum Vitae

Don Miguel Angel Salaverria was born in Sonsonate. He studied at the San Jose School and in U.S. schools and universities. He is married to Dona Rosa Prieto de Salaverria, and has seven children. He has developed most of his career in the private sector. He was an executive of TACA [Central American Air Transportation] Airlines, of Prieto, Inc., which represents several foreign companies.

He has also worked as an executive for the ADOC Factory, MOLSA, El Salvador Hotel, Almacenadora Centroamericana, was founder of the Cuscatlan Bank, president of Commercial Publicity, director of the Center for Livestock Development, director of Cessa Cement, founder of Atarraya, Inc., founder of the Development Bank, president of CRECE, director of CEI, and official of the Central Reserve Bank.

In the coffee production field, he has been Salvadoran alternate delegate to the meetings of the former International Coffee Organization (OIC), accompanied several coffee missions, and was ABECAFE treasurer. He was also decorated by several governments. In July 1989 President Cristiani appointed him ambassador to Washington, and then foreign minister on 19 November. The Guatemalan, Honduran, Costa Rican, Panamanian, and Dominican ambassadors accredited in Washington were invited to the swearing-in ceremony.

Defense Minister: Army Will Not Meddle in Campaign

PA2111171693 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Nov 93

[From "YSU Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Defense Minister Colonel Humberto Corado Figueroa said this morning that military policemen have been deployed to several of San Salvador's busiest streets because the Army is carrying out an internal activity that coincides with the beginning of the electoral campaign. The ranking military chief said the measure is temporary and will not hinder the election process beginning today throughout El Salvador.

[Begin recording] [Corado] There are Army members on San Salvador streets purely as part of an exercise; the traditional military [word indistinct] we carry out every year. The event closes today with a marathon, which requires a certain amount of protection from vehicular traffic. That is why there are military policemen along the route. I think the race has ended by now and [words indistinct].

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Corado] No, no, no. This is a totally different activity. [end recording]

Col. Corado also said the country's political parties are beginning a very intense campaign today, so the Armed Forces will remain alert to any possible incidents but will not meddle. The defense minister then reaffirmed the Armed Forces' pledge to stay out of the country's electoral political affairs.

[Begin recording] [Corado] As a member of the Armed Forces and especially as a Salvadoran, I would like the electoral campaign beginning today to really focus on national issues, to help us resolve the serious political, social, and economic problems in our country, and to allow the Salvadoran people to have a clear understanding of what the various political parties have to

offer so they can vote, according to their preference, for the people they want to govern them at the various levels.

I would urge the political parties to formulate real solutions for our national problems in a climate of respect and harmony—to the extent possible—thus increasing the people's confidence and their desire to participate.

[Reporter] What attitude will the Armed Forces take [words indistinct]

[Corado] We will continue to do our constitutional duty of maintaining national sovereignty and especially of guaranteeing internal order so long as it is requested and the president of the Republic orders it. [end recording]

Col. Corado added that the country's development is obvious. He said the phase initiated today marks the beginning of a new relationship between politics and the Army, which, by redefining its position, will maintain its autonomy and subservience to civilian authority and will not meddle in Salvadoran political affairs.

TSE Officially Convokes 1994 Elections

PA2111041593 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 18 Nov 93 p 3

[Text] The Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) yesterday officially convoked the Salvadoran people to participate in the 20 March 1994 general elections, and it asked politicians to hold "a dignified campaign. No Salvadoran should fail to participate in the process," it was stated by TSE President Luis Arturo Zaldivar, who was accompanied by Magistrate Jaime Romero Ventura.

At least 2 million Salvadorans who are more than 18 years old will cast their vote on 20 March to elect the president of the Republic, 84 Legislative Assembly deputies, 20 Central American Parliament deputies, and 262 municipal council officials.

"The quality that political parties, their candidates, and sympathizers give the electoral campaign will be the best indicator of the vitality of our country's democracy," Zaldivar said. "We hope the publicity will offer the citizens an opportunity to know the candidates, their party platforms, their ideas, and their personal attitudes concerning the country's problems and their outlook," he added.

There are currently 11 legally registered parties: ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance], PCN [National Conciliation Party], PDC [Christian Democratic Party], MSN [National Solidarity Movement], MAC [Authentic Christian Movement], RN [National Resistance], MUN [National Unity Movement], PL [Liberation Party], MNR [National Revolutionary Movement], and the former FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] in an alliance with [Democratic] Convergence.

Following the official ceremony, FMLN National Coordinator Shafik Handal said: "What we want is a campaign without dead people;" adding that "we will exert ourselves in these elections so they give us the government that the country needs to implement the (peace) accords."

President Alfredo Cristiani urged the different political parties to carry out a campaign of proposals and guidance rather than violence. "We want a campaign without violence, too. It should be a campaign in which each candidate can freely expound to the people his offer and in which the people can adopt a decision without violence," Cristiani added.

Moreover, Dr. Romero Ventura recalled that, according to Articles 208 of the Constitution and 55 of the Electoral Code, the TSE is the ultimate authority in electoral matters, and it should convoke the Electoral Council at least four months before election day. According to the TSE, only 2.7 million of the country's 5.47 million citizens are of a legal age to vote.

Starting today, the 10 parties legally registered at the TSE will have 10 days to register their presidential candidates for the 1994 elections.

Given the media's insistent questions, Dr. Zaldivar ruled out the possibility the TSE will extend the registration period, which ends on 19 November [date as published]. It has been reported the FMLN would ask the Legislative Assembly to extend the deadline. Consequently, the TSE president reasserted "there is no need to extend the registration date because the goals have been met—in fact, they have been surpassed."

The ceremony was attended by the president and vice president of the Republic; representatives of other state branches; presidential candidates; representatives of cooperating institutions; and the diplomatic corps.

Candidate Zamora Assesses Problems With Voter ID Issuance

PA2011230593 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Report by Julio Melendez; from the "Up to Date" newscast]

[Text] On 20 November, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE] will close the period for eligible Salvadorans to register to vote in the 1994 elections. Ruben Zamora, presidential candidate for the left, believes that it would be acceptable if the electoral institution managed to issue electoral ID cards to at least 650,000 voters. He added, however, that this does not mean that all obstacles have been surmounted.

[Begin Zamora recording] The most difficult part of the process, where the true bottleneck lies, involves the processing of 650,000 applications. This includes

checking birth certificates and taking pictures. The most difficult part of this process is already under way. [end recording]

The political leader also talked about problems surrounding the appointment of a special commission to investigate illegal armed groups. According to Zamora, the impossibility of setting up this organization sends a clear message to the death squads.

[Begin Zamora recording] The most serious problem is that no one is making a decision. The UN under secretary general spent a week here trying fruitlessly to set up a commission. What does this mean? That we are sending a terrible message to the death squads and to the violent extreme right. We are telling them that impunity continues. [end recording]

The politician confirmed that he will tour at least six European countries, where he will explain the political position of the Democratic Convergence-FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] coalition and will request help to finance his electoral campaign.

Christian Movement Nominates Presidential Candidate

PA2011230393 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Report by Hilda Quijano; from the "Up to Date" newscast]

[Text] The Authentic Christian Movement, MAC, has announced that Dr. Rhina Escalante de Rey Prendes will be its presidential candidate. The presidential nominee, wife of leader Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes, will be proclaimed on 5 December. This is the first time that a woman will vie for the presidency of the Republic in elections where slates are made up of men.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] We are proposing to the Salvadoran people something that has not been seen in the history of our country, something that had never happened before in the history of our fatherland: a female presidential candidate. [end recording]

In our country, women represent more than half the population, a factor that the MAC strategically took into account in choosing Rey Prendes as its presidential candidate. She has a government plan for women:

[Begin Rey Prendes recording] There no longer will be discrimination against women for being women and for being poor. We want and demand greater representation in government. [end recording]

Rhina Rey Prendes, former attorney general of the Republic, will be proclaimed presidential candidate on 5 December, when the other members of the MAC ticket will also be announced.

Guatemala

De Leon Asks TSE To Cancel 28 Nov Plebiscite

PA2011001393 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2127 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 19 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Today, one day after the Guatemalan Congress called for a referendum to approve the reforms to the Constitution, Guatemalan President Ramiro de Leon Carpio asked the Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE] to cancel the 28 November plebiscite.

TSE Spokesman Mario Guerra Roldan has told the media that de Leon Carpio visited the TSE office to report that he has desisted from calling the plebiscite, because he believes that the reasons for having it no longer exist.

De Leon had announced—following the signing of the Executive-Legislative Branches' commitment that ended a confrontation that had lasted almost 6 months—that he would withdraw his request after Congress' approval of a reforms "package" and once Congress had asked the TSE to convoke a referendum so that the people may ratify the package.

The reforms include moving up the legislative elections and changing the members of the Supreme Court of Justice next year. The president had demanded a purge of the Legislative and Judicial Branches. Guerra Roldan said that de Leon's withdrawal of his call for a plebiscite permits the TSE to examine the request presented yesterday by Congress. The TSE has seven days to do so.

The plebiscite, which would have taken place on 28 November, was temporarily suspended last week by the Constitutionality Court, which argued that its results could disrupt institutional order.

The court's decision was announced at a time when the Executive and Legislative Branches were negotiating a way out of the confrontation between the two powers as a result of de Leon's demand that the 116 deputies resign immediately.

The negotiations concluded with a "commitment for the state's restructuring." This commitment has the backing of the international community, the Catholic Church, and business and political leaders. Independent sectors have questioned it.

Congress Petitions TSE To Summon Reform Referendum

PA1911230193 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 18 Nov 93

[From the "Telepress" newscast]

[Text] Today, Congress asked the Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE] to call for a public vote to learn the

citizens' opinion on reforms to the country's Constitution. Congress President Jose Lobo Dubon personally handed this request to the TSE magistrates at the TSE offices. The vote requested by Congress was agreed on during talks held between the Executive and Legislative Branches, just as Lobo Dubon reiterated today when he presented the formal petition to the magistrates.

[Begin recording] [Lobo] TSE president, honorable TSE magistrates: As is public knowledge, Congress has approved a package of constitutional reforms that have been worked out and agreed on with the Executive Branch to bring to an end a political crisis we have been experiencing and also to begin restructuring Guatemalan State organizations. We are convinced that these reforms are the doors that will open, the first steps to be taken, for a profound change of the Guatemalan State at all levels. When I say this I am referring basically to the fact that we are looking into the possibility that we, in the near future, through civilized dialogue, can also transform the economic and social structure and perfect even more the policies. This is so that we, Guatemalans, may enjoy not only a system and a regime of freedom, but that all Guatemalans may have access to immediate spiritual and material development, something the Guatemalan people have been demanding for many decades.

It is for this reason, Messrs. Magistrates, Mr. President of this high tribunal, please allow me to read you this letter I am delivering to you.

[Dated] Guatemala City, 18 November 1993.

Mr. Fernando Antonio Bonilla Martinez, president of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal.

Mr. President:

As that high tribunal is aware, the Legislative and Executive Branches, in response to a call made by the Bishops Conference, began a process of constitutional reforms intended to make viable a democratic, dignified, and peaceful solution to the political and institutional crisis that resulted from events that took place on 25 May 1993. Then former President Serrano Elias attempted, through a coup d'etat, to place limits on the country's constitutional make-up with a republican form of government. Efforts by both branches of government, allowed, as you are aware Mr. President, Congress to approve on 17 November 1993, with the formalities the law demands, reforms to the constitutional text to allow the reorganization of our state's political institutions.

In view of the aforementioned, Mr. President, I address to you and the honorable magistrates of the TSE the corresponding proposal to call all citizens to vote so they may decide on the constitutional reforms of the Republic of Guatemala. This is in compliance with the mandate specified under Legislative Decree No. 18-93 dated 17 November 1993, and in the name of the Congress of the Republic, and exercising the power bestowed on Congress by Article 173.

In the call for a vote, the people of Guatemala should be asked if they ratify the constitutional reforms approved by Congress on 17 November 1993.

I remain,

[Signed] Congress President Jose Lobo Dubon.

We also attach another note specifying the question we believe should be asked to the people of Guatemala, and it reads:

Do you ratify the constitutional reforms approved by the Congress of the Republic on 17 November 1993?

I will hand you, Mr. President, the letter I have read. Likewise, the agreement approved by Congress yesterday in which I am authorized, representing Congress, to immediately present this initiative by the Legislative Branch to this high tribunal. I also hand you the text of the reforms to the Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala.

This, Mr. President, is the reason for my visit.

[Bonilla] I will immediately summon the TSE plenum to inform them of this so that the necessary steps can be taken within the term specified by the Constitution.

[Unidentified reporter] According to the Constitution, what is the period you have in which to call a referendum?

[Bonilla] Within eight days of receiving the request.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Bonilla] All these aspects will have to be discussed by the TSE, which is why I will summon the plenum. [end recording]

URNG Denies Military War Tax Accusations

PA2111174393 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 19 Nov 93 p 20

[Text] The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] command denied levying a war tax on ranchers and farm owners on the southern coast. It also accused military intelligence of initiating a slander campaign against the URNG.

In a telephone interview, Miguel Angel Sandoval, member of the URNG Political-Diplomatic Commission, said the accusation is untrue and that the organization he represents has nothing to do with a number of threats made recently against the media, individuals, and even farmers. Sandoval said the situation originated in the Army intelligence section and its purpose is to wage a psychological war to discredit the URNG.

In rejecting the charge made by CRONICA Magazine Director Gustavo Verganza, who said that the insurgents demanded that the magazine pay a $40,000 war tax, Sandoval said such threats are "not a method used by the URNG and that the guerrillas respect freedom of

thought." The URNG member added that this campaign has been going on for a long time through the use of pseudonyms. "We suspect that it originated in the military intelligence bodies, especially in those recalcitrant sectors that oppose any kind of peaceful and democratic coexistence," Sandoval said.

As for the Guatemalan peace process, Sandoval said "the best sign of goodwill would be a major modification of the Rosada Plan [Reference to Hector Rosada, who drafted a peace proposal for President De Leon]. Such an adjustment would be a noble gesture toward Guatemalan society, the international community, and the process itself."

Sandoval said Rosada's statements on the refusal to sign the human rights agreement failed to take into account that this stand came as a result of the coup d'etat and was not due to a lack of political willingness on the part of the URNG.

Honduras

Callejas Discounts Former U.S. Ambassador Remarks

PA2011143893 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 19 Nov 93 p 6

[Text] Tegucigalpa—President Rafael Leonardo Callejas downplayed former U.S. Ambassador Cresencio Arcos' comments against the ruling party's campaign, which Arcos says is accusing [Liberal Party of Honduras] presidential candidate Carlos Roberto Reina and his brother Jorge Arturo of being communists.

"Dr. Arcos no longer has anything to do with Honduras," the president responded twice when reporters insisted on hearing his opinion about the U.S. diplomat's remarks yesterday on HRN radio station [Voz de Honduras Network].

Callejas, who was approached at the airport while bidding farewell to his wife, who has again traveled to the United States, said: "the latest polls" by the Cid-Gallup company "gave a vote of confidence to the National Party of Honduras and its candidate, Jose Oswaldo Ramos Soto, and has questioned what the opposition (the Liberal Party) was certain would be another electoral victory."

Callejas said [the ruling party] has won run-off elections in almost every country where economic adjustment plans have been implemented responsibly and seriously, and "Honduras will be no exception. No government is perfect, and no government can aspire to perfection, but one tries to create the best alternatives for the nation," Callejas said. He added that "we are already leaning toward a situation of greater viability for the next administration."

Callejas asked the people "not to risk their future on the experiences of the past," when the Liberal party ruled the country between 1982 and 1990.

Poll Shows Opposition Presidential Candidate in Lead

PA2111175593 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1616 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 19 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Carlos Roberto Reina, presidential candidate of Honduras' leading opposition party, heads the list of candidates favored by the electorate in the 28 November general elections. The poll was conducted by the Costa Rican firm Borge and Associates in conjunction with the Honduran firm Delfos at the request of Television Center Corporation and Voz de Honduras Network.

The poll revealed that Carlos Roberto Reina, candidate for the Liberal Party of Honduras [PLH], is the electorate's top choice with 44 percent. Osvaldo Ramos Soto, candidate for the ruling National Party of Honduras [PNH], comes in second with 41 percent. Olban Valladares, candidate for the Innovation and Unity Party [PINU] of social democratic inclination, received 10 percent of the votes, while Christian Democracy's Orlando Iriarte received only 2 percent.

According to a report issued by Borge and Associates, "an experimental voting system was used in the poll. Respondents were given a ticket similar to the ballot that will be used on election day. They marked their intended vote and deposited the ticket in a closed ballot box."

The poll revealed that in Tegucigalpa, PNH mayoral candidate Nora Gunera will win over rival Roberto Acosta of the PLH. In San Pedro Sula, the country's second largest city, PLH candidate Luis Garcia Bustamante will win the mayoral race. The 28 November elections will be the first in which the Honduran people will vote on separate tickets for a president and a mayor.

According to the National Electoral Tribunal, 2.734 million Hondurans will vote on 28 November to elect 128 deputies, 282 mayors, and 20 members of the Central American Parliament (Parlacen)

Panama

PDC Elects Arias Calderon Presidential Candidate

PA2211045893 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0426 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] Panama City, 21 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Today the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] elected Ricardo Arias Calderon presidential candidate for the 8 May 1994 elections. Arias Calderon was the first vice president during the current government of President Guillermo Endara until December 1992 when he resigned

from the post, which he had not actually served in since 1991 due to differences in economic policies.

Arias Calderon's candidacy received support from more than 80 percent of the 1025 delegates who attended the 11th party convention today in Panama City, where important posts were chosen in a slow voting process.

Carlos Arellano Lennox, the other nominee, only received 15 percent of the votes, which represented all the country's provinces. Arellano interprets his scanty support as a result of PDC "monolithics," which does not favor party strengthening "as when there are alternatives or leadership changes."

For his part, Arias Calderon said that one must be disposed to "changes and transformations" to defend social justice and democratization of the country, and to achieve the total "Panamanianization" of the Canal, which will come under national sovereignty on 31 December 1999.

For the first time, the PDC approved a resolution where it was noted that the presidential candidate is not negotiable in any future alliance, an issue that is now being discussed among the different Panamanian political forces. The PDC is the third political force to officially nominate its presidential candidate, after the Democratic Revolutionary party (PRD) chose Ernesto Perez Balladares, and the National Unity Mission Party (PMU) nominated Jose Manuel Paredes, an Evangelical pastor.

Ricardo Arias Calderon, 60, founder of the PDC, played an outstanding role in the "Civic crusade" opposition that was created to oppose the military regime of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, who was overthrown in the U.S. Army invasion in December 1989. Since 1980, when he occupied the post of party president, which he is now leaving, he has led the PDC with rigid discipline. The PDC has 28 deputies, which is the largest bloc in the Panamanian Legislative Assembly.

In today's convention Raul Ossa was elected PDC president, a post that Arias Calderon has held since 1980. Gabriel Cedeno, Camilo Brenes, and Nelly de Figueroa were elected vice presidents, while Eric Fidel Santamaria was elected secretary general.

Three New Parties Call for New Attorney General

PA2111194593 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Nov 93

[From the "RPC Television News" newscast]

[Text] The Civic Renewal Party, National Unity Mission, and Independent Democratic Union have requested urgent changes in the Attorney General's Office. These three recently formed political parties have asked the Panamanian president and the Legislative Assembly to set aside political interests and appoint a new attorney general to replace Jorge Ramon Valdes as soon as possible. They said the new attorney general should fulfill the requirements demanded by the citizens.

The manifesto, issued by these political parties, includes some suggestions to replace the people's confidence in democratic institutions.

[Begin Civic Renewal Party President Tomas Herrera recording] A. By appointing to the Supreme Court of Justice, the Attorney General's Office, and the Solicitor General's Office individuals who have absolutely no links to political parties and who have a professional history of integrity and ability so they will be above any suspicion; B. By establishing and implementing the judicial career service so the appointments in those offices will be made without any type of political considerations; C. By undertaking in-depth investigations of all charges of corruption inside and outside the Attorney General's Office and the judicial branch, as well as charges of drug trafficking, money laundering, and arms transshipment, setting the most severe penalties permitted by penal law for those found guilty. [end recording]

Third 'Neighbors Meeting' With Colombia Opens

PA2011045793 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Nov 93

[From "The RPC Television News" newscast]

[Text] Today, the foreign ministers of Panama and Colombia opened the third Colombian-Panamanian Neighbors Meeting at the Atlapa Convention Center. One of the important issues to be discussed at this meeting is the signing of an agreement on mutual legal assistance regarding legal cooperation to confront drug trafficking. Other important issues to be discussed will be immigration, transportation, health, and education.

The Colombian delegation consists of more that 15 government officials of diverse government institutions, led by Noemi Sanin, Colombia's foreign minister. Here is what Foreign Minister Sanin said:

[Begin recording] [Sanin, in progress] ....as we said last time, integration is moving forward. I ask the current president.... [pauses] I would like to give him a very warm welcome to our commission and integration work. I ask in Colombia's name that our appreciation be made known to him.

[Foreign Minister Mulino] This commission—the third meeting still has not started—has achieved marvelous goals. It has made specific and practical progress; the integration is moving forward. There is determined work between Colombia and Panama, between the governments and the private sectors. This demonstrates that where there is initiative and willingness, things can be accomplished without involving a great deal of bureaucracy. [end recording]

It was learned that Panama and Colombia are negotiating products that could be included in a free trade agreement to be signed in the coming months.

Argentina

Economy Minister on Productivity, Exports, Investment

PY2011154593 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1955 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Nov (NA)—Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo has said Brazilian exports "are based on the impoverishing of Brazilians and on keeping their consumption at low levels."

"That is not the way to promote exports in order to grow. The right way is the way we are doing it, promoting the growth of the economy," he said.

In a speech he delivered last night at the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Chamber of Exporters, Cavallo said that "we do not provoke recession. We pose the challenge of increasing production."

He recalled that exports amounted to $12.3 billion in 1991, and that this figure dropped to $11.9 billion in 1992. "But in 1993 we will reach $12.9, almost $13 billion."

He noted the difference, from the viewpoint of exports, between the Austral Plan implemented by former minister Juan Sourrouille and the current Convertibility Program.

"The great difference between what is happening now and what happened with the Austral Plan lies in high productivity investment, because the Convertibility Program was preceded and accompanied by full restructuring of the Argentine economy," Cavallo said.

He said "the high productivity investment process will intensify in 1994."

He emphasized that "it is not right to say that we should worry about the fact that most investments come from the areas of goods and services that may not be sold. One cannot discriminate between good and bad exports."

"The truth is that investment increases the productivity of the economy in general," he concluded.

Chamber of Exporters Chairman Daniel Brunella emphasized that his organization "did not ask and is not asking for a nominal devaluation of the exchange rate," because it does not believe in "this simplistic solution."

Brunella referred to a report the former Economic Coordination Secretary Adolfo Canitrot wrote, at the request of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), which says that the "nominal devaluation between April and June 1985 was 152 percent, and this served to obtain a 12-percent depreciation, in real terms."

In his report, Canitrot says that "results were discouraging; exports dropped by 25 percent in 1986 and 1987, largely because of the drop in farm product prices, but also because of unexpected political effects."

In his speech, Brunella said that "the approval of NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement] by the U.S. Congress is good news, but we should carefully analyze the opportunities that it will give us and how we can use them."

He said that "Mercosur [Common Market of the South], with all its difficulties, is an accepted strategic decision, and we should see how we can overcome macroeconomic asymmetry through the mechanisms provided for by the Treaty of Asuncion, emphasizing long- term objectives."

"We should also redesign our policy in Asia and in the Pacific area, creating appropriate mechanisms and instruments to reinforce our presence in the region," he concluded.

IAPA Annual Report on Media Conditions Revealed

PY1911172993 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2100 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] San Carlos de Bariloche, 18 Nov (NA)—The report on Argentina that is contained in the "country by country" conclusions of the 49th Annual Assembly of the Inter-American Press Association [IAPA] maintains that "press freedom has reigned in the country since the restoration of democracy in 1983," although it indicates that "the physical and psychological security conditions" of the media workers "have frequently deteriorated" during pre-election periods.

The report states that "there have been a great number of anonymous threats against journalists of the print, radio and television media," and it mentions that the aggression against journalists and photographers in August 1993 at the Rural Society and against Hernan Lopez Echague of the newspaper PAGINA/12 "as being the most serious cases."

Among other incidents that occurred "after" the 3 October elections, it mentions the cases of photographer Rafael Yohai of LA NACION and Manuel Fernandez of TELAM, who "received a beating" on the premises of the Radical Civic Union in the Federal Capital.

"More recently, photographers and television cameramen were beaten up during a demonstration of pensioners," and the document adds that "journalists who covered the kidnapping" of San Luis Governor Adolfo Rodriguez Saa "have also suffered intimidatory actions."

The report also mentions the death of journalist Mario Bonino, a UTPBA [Buenos Aires Press Workers Union] employee, who disappeared on 11 November and whose body was found in the Riachuelo River. It adds that up to the time of this assembly, "the motives are unknown."

The report on Argentina contains almost textually, with the exception of the Bonino case, the preliminary report that was read by Bartolome Mitre, director of LA

NACION, during the first session of the Press and Information Freedom Committee.

Among its highlights, the report expresses the hope that Congress "will not give the green light to the so-called right to rebuttal." According to President Carlos Menem, this piece of legislation does not have "any type of official support. To do the contrary," the report maintains, "it would at least undo all the good that has been done this year with the abrogation of the old law pertaining to contempt.

It also acknowledges that this law has been abrogated "with the favorable vote of both the legislators of the governing parties and those of the opposition."

Moreover, it warns that "Congress is delaying the approval of the law that guarantees the secrecy of the journalists' sources of information," despite the fact that "there are several draft bills in this respect that are sitting in Congress."

IAPA Reports Media Being 'Substantially Undermined'

PY1911162093 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2114 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Excerpts] San Carlos de Bariloche, 18 Nov (NA)—The 49th Assembly of the Inter-American Press Association [IAPA] today concluded four days of deliberations with the issuance of a document that maintains "the Americas were the scene of a surprising degree of violence and legal actions against the media" during the past year.

The conclusions, which were approved this morning by the Press and Information Freedom Committee, also stress that "the period immediately prior to elections is especially dangerous for journalists in some countries, where party violence affects journalists." The report stresses that "this situation has been particularly worrisome in Argentina."

The IAPA document also indicates that "at least" 19 journalists were murdered in the Americas during the past year, 11 in Colombia, five in Mexico, one in the United States, one in Guatemala, and one in Argentina. [passage omitted]

It also maintains that "it is imperative that public authorities ensure the work conditions of journalists by effectively implementing the penal laws," and it affirms that "freedom of expression and of the press are being substantially undermined in countries where physical violence continues to be a powerful source of repression."

The document adds that "despite the commitment to freedom of expression and a free press, some countries continue to propose aggressive laws to limit this freedom in practice," and it specifically mentions Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, and Canada.

It affirms that the unsuccessful "self-coup" in Guatemala "led to a brief period of strict censorship of the press. Despite the fortunate outcome, it was a reminder of the frailty of the democratic system in many countries."

The report points out that "there are two stains on the map of freedom of expression in the Western Hemisphere: Cuba and Haiti," and it adds that "it cannot be said that the citizens and media of these two countries have freedom of expression."

After considering that "the best press law is the one that does not exist," the document maintains that this "does not mean that the press is above the law in general, but that special laws have to be approved for it."

The document indicates that such countries as Peru, Argentina, Paraguay, Brazil, and Canada "are making changes, or considering changes, in their constitutions," and it ponders "whether this opens the possibility of fundamental advances in the acknowledgement of freedom of expression."

In its final paragraph, the document stresses that "the media must formulate their own norms and procedures to ensure the public right of being informed," and it affirms that "no government tribunal nor government-supported organizations should supervise the activities of the media, because the media have the same degree of independence of thought and expression the citizens."

Bolivia

FELCN Chief, Official Deny Increase in Drug Trafficking

PY2011145793 Santa Cruz EL MUNDO in Spanish 9 Nov 93 p 9

[Excerpt] La Paz, 8 Nov (ANF)—General Renato Lopez Leyton, retired, the national commander of the Special Antinarcotics Force (FELCN), and Social Defense Secretary Enrique Soria have categorically denied an erroneous report that indicates that drug trafficking has increased in Bolivia.

Visibly annoyed and surprised, Lopez Leyton indicated that the report that was published in several newspapers lacks credibility, and he warned that the report has provoked a serious incident with Government Minister German Quiroga.

The report, which is attributed to Lopez Leyton, states that the FELCN commander had "admitted that during the past two months there had been an increase in drug trafficking activities, presumably due to the action that is being taken against this crime in Colombia, thus forcing the deployment of the drug traffickers to Bolivia."

"I never said that. They have provoked a problem for me with the government minister. And, neither did I say that

those people (drug traffickers), are deploying to the Yungas," Lopez Leyton said during an interview with the Fides News Agency.

"Imagine the problems that this type of report has caused for me," Lopez Leyton said indignantly.

The report, which was published on the front page of the doyen of the newspapers, the daily EL DIARIO, contradicts the official statements that were made by the antidrug authorities of Jaime Paz Zamora's government. Former Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra, in agreement with the DEA, stated before last August that drug trafficking had decreased by 50 percent. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Editorial on New Challenges NAFTA Poses for Brazil

PY2011233293 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Nov 93 Section 1 p 2

[Editorial: "Barred from the Party"]

[Text] A population of 373.5 million people generate a GDP of $6.839 trillion. These two impressive figures alone are enough to show the incredible scope that the approval of NAFTA—which in English stands for North American Free Trade Agreement and includes the United States, Canada, and Mexico—by the U.S. House of Representatives has.

It is obvious that because the agreement includes the major power in the world, once it is fully implemented, it will have an impact on the entire global economy. For Brazil, the most important lesson is probably that the world is definitely heading toward the creation of commercial blocs.

Since Brazil—for the time being—is excluded from this agreement, all that is left for it to do is work for the consolidation of Mercosur [Common Market of the South], a free trade agreement with three of its neighboring countries (Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay). The benefits of treaties of this type are quite obvious. Between 1985, when negotiations to create Mercosur started, and 1991, trade between Brazil and Argentina, the two main countries of this area, jumped from approximately $1.05 billion to $2.4 billion.

The Brazilian Government's proposal to create a South American free trade zone should also be exploited. If Mercosur is already yielding obvious benefits, an even broader market should, in theory, be even more profitable.

Neither can one deny the impact that the agreement between the United States, Canada, and Mexico will have on certain Brazilian exports. Mexican products similar to the Brazilian products will enter the U.S. market, the most attractive market in the world, under favorable terms due to the lack of import taxes.

Be it from the diplomatic or commercial aspect, NAFTA's consolidation poses new challenges for Brazil. These challenges must be faced with determination, without becoming paralyzed by the economic and political difficulties generated by the domestic situation. The world is not going to wait for Brazil to solve its problems.

Communist Leader Praises Iraq; Vice Minister to Visit

PY2011195293 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Nov 93 p 2

[From the "Political Panorama" column by Tereza Cruvinel in Brasilia]

[Text] Out goes Albania, in comes Iraq. Aldo Rebelo, the leader of the PC do B [Communist Party of Brazil], on 18 November gave an address in which he praised Saddam Husayn's country. The pretext of the address is the arrival of the Iraqi vice minister for international relations [title as published; no name provided] next week in Brazil. But the real reason is the fact that the United States detests Saddam, whose government has killed dozens of communists in addition to the Kurds.

'Concessions' to Protectionists Affect Brazil's Exports

PY1911175593 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Nov 93 p B20

[Article by Paulo Sotero, from Washington]

[Text] Within the framework of negotiations of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade [GATT], which must be concluded—or not—by December, the United States will only reduce the high import tariff levied on Brazilian orange concentrate by 15 percent. The tariffs on the import of Brazilian orange concentrate into the United States are the highest ones. By virtue of the Uruguay Round, signatory countries to the GATT had committed themselves to lowering customs duties on farm products by 15 percent at the very least.

This ceiling in the reduction of tariffs on Brazilian orange concentrate was one of several concessions made by the White House over the last two weeks to interests that seek to protect U.S. agriculture, especially that of Florida, so as to secure the necessary vote to ratify the North America Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA].

There was some doubt about whether NAFTA would continue to be a tool to promote "free trade" following the panoply of concessions made to business interests by the U.S. executive head of state to ward off an overwhelming political defeat.

The WALL STREET JOURNAL, the most important U.S. newspaper and a decided champion of free trade, is of the opinion that the resultant rift and bitterness from the fierce battle over NAFTA may have caused more

damage than benefit to the liberalization of international trade. In its 17 November edition, the U.S. newspaper states that the struggle "is an omen of a shift toward moving away from a global system of trade, in which nations led by the United States had collectively reduced barriers to trade over the last 60 years."

Another possible shock wave of the battle over NAFTA will be that other Latin American countries will have to wait for several years before being able to adhere to the foregoing treaty. The promise that other countries of the hemisphere will be able to join the treaty was made by Washington to respond to criticism leveled at the aforementioned treaty contending that the United States sought to establish a trade bloc in North America to increase its competitiveness and political leadership vis-a-vis the economic blocs that are in the making in Asia and Europe.

1994 Presidential Elections Timetable Reported

PY1911231593 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Elections for president of the Republic, governors, senators, and deputies have been set for 3 October 1994. If a second round of elections is necessary, Brazilians will return to the ballot boxes on 15 November.

Whoever wishes to run in these elections and currently holds a public post will have to resign by 2 April, which is when the deadline to hold regional and national conventions starts.

Regarding voters, it has been established that 31 May is the last day for them to register or change their address.

According to the electoral timetable, the Supreme Electoral Court will proclaim the candidates elected for president and vice president of the Republic by 19 December.

Industry Minister To Resign By Year's End

PY1911225793 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Industry, Commerce, and Tourism Minister Jose Eduardo Andrade Vieira announced in Rio de Janeiro today that he will resign at the end of the year.

Although he asserted that he does not intend to run for any public post in the upcoming elections and there are no problems in his relationship with the Federal Government, Minister Andrade Vieira announced his intention to resign his post at year's end:

[Begin recording] The president wants to make some changes in his cabinet; therefore, I believe it is the appropriate moment for me to leave; that is all. [end recording]

Minister Andrade Vieira today participated in a luncheon with businessmen at the Jockey Club in Rio de Janeiro.

In his address, the industry and commerce minister said that in one year his ministry obtained extremely positive results despite the difficulties experienced by the country. According to the minister, the recessionary tendency registered during the last year of Fernando Collor's administration, when the GDP [gross domestic product] experienced a negative growth of 0.9 percent, has been reversed. Currently, according to Andrade, we can talk about a minimum 6-percent growth in the GDP, which represents a 2.2-percent increase in the income per head of Brazilian citizens during the first half of this year.

At the end of his speech, Andrade Vieira made an appeal for the unity of all to build a new Brazil with work and responsibility.

Pedro Simon Said To Supplant Cardoso as Top Franco Adviser

PY1911203593 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Nov 93 p 8

[Article by Tales Faria from the Brasilia bureau]

[Excerpt] The government leader in the Senate, Pedro Simon (PMDB-RS) [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party-Rio Grande do Sul State], who at one point submitted his resignation to President Itamar Franco, is no longer talking about leaving. In fact, he has been confirmed, albeit without any public announcement to that effect. He already is taking Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso's place as the president's main political adviser.

Simon has gained so much prestige in the eyes of the president that the latter has invited Simon to take over as chief of the civil household instead of Henrique Hargreaves. Franco has offered Simon a job the president had never wanted to have in his administration: that of political coordinator.

The senator refused. He told the president he would help him "a lot more" as government leader in the Senate. Simon was actually side-stepping. The truth is that he was afraid that working with Franco at Government House, the two would disagree. It would seem that Simon has discovered that he and the president have many things in common. The word at Government House is that the two are equally stubborn. The senator's approach to management, however, is very different from President Franco's. [passage omitted]

PT, PMDB Seek Alliance With PSDB

PY2111023993 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Nov 93 p A6

[From the "Coluna do Estadao" column by Cristiana Lobo]

[Text] As happened in 1989, the Brazilian Social Democracy Party [PSDB] is this year's bride: On one hand, the

Workers Party [PT] seeks to make an alliance with the Tucanos [PSDB members]—Jose Ignacio Lula da Silva never made a secret of his plans to have Tasso Jereissati as his ticket's vice president. On the other hand, the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party [PMDB], which has been weakened by its leaders' involvement in the budget scandal, proposes an alliance for the 1994 presidential elections.

Talks with the PT have been suspended since 1992, when the Tucanos joined the Itamar Franco administration and the PT became an opposition party. Talks with the PMDB have begun only now.

Currently, the PMDB is the party most interested in the alliance. The Rio Grande do Sul congressmen who have been courted by the PSDB (especially Antonio Britto and Pedro Simon) would like to participate in next year's election together with the PSDB.

The PSDB does not discard any of the suitors. It will muddle through. After all, its electoral profile will only become clear after Fernando Henrique Cardoso's economic plan is implemented. If the plan succeeds in reducing the inflation rate, the PSDB candidate will be considered Lula's adversary for the second round of next year's elections.

In Pedro Simon's opinion, if Jereissati really becomes the vice presidential candidate on Lula's ticket, there will not be a second round of voting. Theirs will be the winning ticket.

Franco Suspends Average 35 Percent Salary Hike for Military

PY1911203393 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 Nov 93 p 8

[Article by Sandra Brasil and Silvia Faria]

[Text] Brasilia—President Itamar Franco changed his mind and on 16 November suspended the signing of a provisional measure granting an average 35 percent salary increase for the military. Franco made this decision after listening to Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso's and Administration Minister Romildo Canhim's arguments against the increase.

In the presence of Army Minister Zenildo de Lucena, Navy Minister Ivan Serpa, Aeronautics Minister Lelio Lobo, and Armed Forces General Staff chief Arnaldo Leite Pereira, Franco ordered Canhim to carry out new studies regarding the salaries of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches.

After the meeting yesterday, Canhim said: "We are going to review the salary issue thoroughly and find a definite solution to this problem. After we find a solution we will meet again with the president."

According to Canhim, granting an average 35 percent salary increase will only further distort the salaries between the different branches and also civil servants, as well as causing the Treasury a shortage at a time when the government is making an effort to cut expenditures. Canhim said there will be an adjustment but that a date for this decision has not been set.

The military ministers left Planalto Palace at 1900, obviously annoyed by the veto of the provisional measure that had been approved by Franco more than a week ago. Until yesterday morning the military was sure the provisional measure would be implemented this week. According to an Armed Forces officer, the military ministers will have problems telling their subordinates that the increase in specific bonuses will no longer be granted in December.

The officer commented: If the troops could hardly bear the financial situation before they heard about the increase, how will the ministers now tell their subordinates that the president has changed his mind and canceled the increase he already had promised them.

In the opinion of a Navy officer, Minister Canhim, who is a retired Army general, is the man responsible for Franco's decision.

Cardoso Says Debt Negotiator's Exit Scheduled

PY1911234993 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Andre Lara Resende will leave his post as foreign debt negotiator at the end of the month.

Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso explained that his exit was agreed on when he assumed this post. Cardoso said the economist promised when he accepted the post to stay until the foreign debt rescheduling agreement with private banks was signed.

The minister added that Lara Resende leaves the government but that he will continue cooperating with the country.

[Begin Cardoso recording] He assumed this post with the promise to accompany the negotiation of the foreign debt to the end. He came to give Pedro Malan a hand when he took over as Central Bank president. Andre has cooperated with Malan, me, and the government. This is not something he just decided; his exit was agreed on beforehand. Moreover, he has and will continue to contribute with his ideas, which are very good ideas. He is a very capable person and Brazil cannot do without his help. [end recording]

Andre Lara Resende's exit is not going to affect negotiations with the IMF since IMF experts will continue working in Brazil until 23 November. On 27 November, Minister Cardoso will travel to Toronto, Canada, accompanied by Andre Lara Resende.

Chile

Diplomatic Agreement on Airline Conflict With U.S. Reached

PY2011021593 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] The U.S. and Chilean Governments have solved their air traffic conflict for one year. The agreement concluded with a decision for a reciprocal flight frequency increase by American Airlines, Lan Chile, and Ladeco [Chilean Airlines]. The information was jointly released this afternoon by Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma; Edgardo Boeninger, minister secretary general of the presidency; and Transport Minister German Molina, who gave details of negotiations that started on 11 November. The agreement contains two basic elements: a regulation starting on 1 December 1993 and ending on 30 November 1994 affecting air service between Chile and the United States, and the search for a common interpretation of the treaty signed between Chile and the United States in order to make its ratification possible.

The agreement includes a frequency increase, which for the Chilean airlines means up to three more weekly flights for the entire year. Other daily flights may be added in the period between 2 December 1993 and 31 January 1994 as well as 31 January of the next year [as heard].

American Airlines will be able to add one daily direct flight between the latter two periods. This is what Transport Minister Molina said about the agreement:

[Begin recording] The government considers this agreement something positive, not only because it permits us to overcome a difficult situation in a satisfactory way for both parties, but also because it accepts the objectives the Chilean Government thinks are particularly important and that have guided it during the entire process. These elements are: First, the existence of a transitory regulatory formula compatible with a growing market that avoids the risk of an excessive offer that might destroy the airlines; second, the agreement guarantees the principle of equal opportunities for the two countries' companies; and third, it establishes a path for negotiations in order to agree on a framework that will orient the long-term development of bilateral air services. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Silva Cimma said that, thanks to the agreement, Chile was able to avoid an imminent dispute with the U.S. Government over the issue of air transportation between the two countries that might have caused serious damage to the two most important Chilean airlines. Silva Cimma also said the solution comes about at a time when this type of dispute is increasing in a very restrictive climate for the interests of small airlines all over the world.

Ministry Completes Arrangements for 11 Dec Elections

PY2111020993 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Speaker identified by screen caption]

[Text] Everything has been arranged at the Interior Ministry for the presidential and congressional elections scheduled for 11 December. These elections will cost the state 2.5 billion pesos.

As on previous occasions, the press center will be located at the Diego Portales building. All the information on the development of the 11 December elections will be disclosed here.

The first report will be issued once 5 percent of the votes have been counted. From then on there will be a report on election developments every two hours.

Congressional election results will be reported through 50 computer terminals that will be distributed at the headquarters of the political parties and the presidential hopefuls.

On 11 December, a total of 8,085,431 registered voters will participate in the elections. There will be 27,030 voting booths that will be distributed at 1,643 voting sites throughout the country.

The Interior Ministry has adopted all the necessary measures to ensure the normal development of this process.

[Begin Interior Ministry Under Secretary Belisario Velasco recording] All the necessary measures have been taken to give the citizenry the facilities so that on that day they will respect the main guidelines of the electoral law. [end recording]

Among these measures is the elimination of vehicle restrictions for 9-11 December. This will allow the citizenry to fulfill its duty normally.

Military To Guarantee Order During 11 Dec Elections

PY1911153693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1852 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Santiago, 18 Nov (EFE) — The Interior Ministry today confirmed that 9,000 members of the Chilean military—6,000 from the Army—will be responsible for security during the 11 December elections.

With 23 days to go until the presidential and congressional elections, the Interior Ministry has implemented the security plan that will guarantee order and tranquility during the elections in which 8,035,439 voters will be allowed to cast their ballots.

General Guido Riquelme, the commander of Santiago's Army garrison, explained that he has submitted a security plan for election day to Interior Minister Enrique Krauss.

Krauss explained that as on other occasions the Armed Forces will take control of security and order before the elections take place. The minister also announced that during the next few days coordination meetings will take place throughout the country between intendants (regional governors) and garrison commanders. On 11 December Chileans will elect President Patricio Aylwin's successor, all the members of the Chamber of Deputies (120), and 18 senators, from a total of 47.

Colombia

Gaviria Says Government Not To Change Antinarcotics Policy

PA2111024593 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2046 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 20 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Colombian President Cesar Gaviria today rejected the eventual legalization of drugs, which was proposed a few days ago by Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff.

In statements for the newspaper EL TIEMPO, Gaviria defended his current antinarcotics strategy, saying that "the policy executed by Colombia with the help of the United States has made drugs less accessible on the streets of consumer countries. Permissiveness with drugs leads to greater levels of addiction and fosters human misfortune," added the president in allusion to De Greiff's remarks during a seminar on the legalization of drugs in Baltimore, Untied States.

According to Gaviria, legalization would not even reduce the prevailing levels of violence, as the defenders of the proposal assert. "The legalization issue is merely an academic discussion," the president said.

In October an international forum on drug trafficking was held in Santa Fe de Bogota; the speakers at that event agreed on the need to change the current strategy "of dealing with the scourge by persecuting and repressing the mafias."

Defense Minister Rafael Pardo himself admitted the failure of this mechanism and spoke in favor of truly considering an eventual legalization.

Gaviria warned that his government will not change its antinarcotics policy. "Drug traffickers are among the worst criminals known to humanity and our struggle will continue to be aimed at freeing Colombia of that curse," he said. "Had we not struggled the way we have, this country might very well have been under the rule of crime," the president concluded.

Survey Indicates Low Drug Consumption, High Violence Rates

PA2111214693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Report by Javier Dario Restrepo; from the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] Even though Colombians endure tensions not normally felt in other countries of the world, the consumption of drugs is low. Figures of violence and mental disorders, however, have amazed experts in charge of the national mental health survey.

According to the research, Colombians are like those seriously ill patients who are hurting all over. Nearly 5 million Colombians have been adversely affected by threats, nearly 4.8 million Colombians have had a murdered relative, more than 4.3 million have been abandoned, and more than 5 million are suffering the separation of their parents.

The coordination of the study was led by Maria Cristina Rojas from the National Consulting Center.

[Begin Rojas recording] The most serious problem faced by Colombian society is a social situation that is extremely aggressive and difficult. The country's institutions are not helping the individual. [end recording]

In the United States, UK, Italy, Japan, and France the institutions that people trust most are the police. In Colombia the police are the most distrusted institution. The Colombian people distrust their institutions in general. Therefore, being the victims of attacks and feeling unprotected, Colombian citizens have anxiety indexes that are five times higher than in any other Latin American country.

Survey Director Psychiatrist Jose Posada gives his conclusions:

[Begin Posada recording] Mental health necessarily has to be added not only to the other health problems but to the person's economic, political, and social problems as well. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Advocates Peaceful Change in Cuba

PA2111085093 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1532 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Panama, 20 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Colombian Foreign Minister Nohemi Sanin Rubio said in Panama City today that political reforms and transformations in Cuba must be conducted in a peaceful manner by the Cuban people themselves.

The Colombian foreign minister made these statements to ACAN-EFE in the Panamanian capital where she participated on Friday in the Third Meeting of the

Colombian-Panamanian Good Neighborhood Commission, an integration mechanism of rapprochement between the two countries.

Sanin pointed out that in Colombia—which recently resumed diplomatic relations with Cuba which were broken off in 1981—"we want the reforms and transformations in that Latin American country to be carried out by the Cuban people themselves, in a peaceful manner, so they can resolve their problems." Sanin added that among the Colombian people "there is general satisfaction" over Colombia's resumption of diplomatic relations with Fidel Castro Ruz' government.

Sanin explained that the Colombian Government made the decision "convinced" that the obstacles, which she did not mention, that emerged in 1981 and caused relations with Cuba to be broken off, had been "overcome." Relations between the two countries were affected at that time due to the alleged connections that were established between Fidel Castro's government and the Colombian guerrilla movements, which presumably received ideological training and weapons from the Cubans.

Navarro Wolff Supports Integration With Venezuela

PA2211035193 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 15 Nov 93 p 6a

[Text] Presidential Candidate Antonio Navarro Wolff [for 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance, AD/M-19] has asserted that Colombian-Venezuelan integration is an irreversible process and a blessing for more than 1 million Colombians who live in the neighboring country.

During his visit to 11 Northern Santander municipalities, the AD/M-19 candidate said one of the prime reasons Colombians migrate is that the country has been unable to offer them spaces in which to live with dignity.

At Villa del Rosario, Navarro Wolff stated that integration has turned the two countries into leaders and examples for the American continent. He added that we will not turn back on integration and that he accepted the challenges posed by the process, which is irreversible. Navarro Wolff also promised to boost the program so it is not left uncompleted.

In Cucuta, Navarro Wolff visited the neighborhood, built on appropriated land, that bears his name. He expressed his commitment to support the residents and insisted that he does not promise what he cannot keep. Antonio Navarro Wolff presided over several political gatherings in Patios, Chinacota, Bochalema, Pamplona, and Ocana municipalities. Today he will attend a political event at the Abrego Municipality central park.

'Gasoline Cartel' River Pollution Spreads Poison, Fire

PA1911195893 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 14 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] The latest action by the so-called "Gasoline Cartel" in Medellin, Antioquia, has left three firemen burned, several people poisoned, and many families relocated. The terrorist group spilled Acpm [not further identified] into the Medellin River's regional avenue.

The official report indicates that the emergency began with a fuel filtration caused by the "Gasoline Cartel's" continuous thefts. Authorities have already arrested the cartel members.

The fire caused by the Acpm burned three Medellin firemen who were trying to control the Sebastopol-Medellin oil pipeline spill. The injured firemen were immediately transferred to a medical center.

Confronted with the possibility of more fires due to the spill, Medellin aid organizations have asked the sector's residents to avoid producing sparks or any action that could prompt fires as there are gases in the sewer pipelines.

Army, DAS Confirm ELN Killed Senator Londono

PA2111190893 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] We now know who killed Senator Dario Londono. The Army and Administrative Department of Security [DAS] have confirmed they have sufficient evidence to state that the assassination was committed by the Army of National Liberation [ELN].

Information from the DAS and military intelligence has confirmed that the ELN's Luis Fernando Giraldo Front assassinated Senator Dario London 15 days ago. This ELN cell operates in Antioquia, Santander, and Uraba with 60 men.

[Begin DAS Director Fernando Brito recording] There are several factors that make us think this way. We do not reject the idea. They are showing Colombian society that no matter how many efforts we make, we are still living under a criminal threat that has no place either inside or outside the country. [end recording]

Among other evidence, the DAS and the Army analyzed the communique issued by the subversive group and the transmissions of the clandestine Radio Patria Libre in which the group claims responsibility for the assassination. The Army and DAS share the view that the guerrillas have begun to use assassination and terrorism to intimidate high-ranking government officials to obtain their objectives.

DAS Agents to Protect Congressmen, Political Candidates

PA2111125393 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Just as more threats against congressmen are being reported every day, the Administrative Department of Security [DAS] agents who will be in charge of protecting them graduated today. This new group of DAS agents will protect the lives of threatened congressmen starting next week. They are detectives who got an A in intelligence and explosives. All their skills were tested this morning shortly before their graduation.

The DAS will implement a new system to protect congressmen and political candidates. It will include four security rings around the person under protection. Two rings will be in the gathering and deployment zone, and two others will involve rapid reaction measures.

Candidate Samper Seeks Removal of Ministers

PA1911202693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Nov 93

[From the "National" newscast]

[Text] The Liberal Party awoke in turmoil today. This was not just because Ernesto Samper, Liberal Party presidential nominee, had asked President Cesar Gaviria during a closed-door meeting to remove the ministers who support Liberal presidential nominee Andres Pastrana, but because one or more of the participants in that meeting leaked the news. Perhaps they felt foisted. This leak created political disarray. According to those telling the story, Ernesto Samper asked the president to remove the ministers supporting Andres Pastrana, in order to make the presidential campaign cleaner.

[Begin Liberal party member David Turbay recording] I think is was one of the topics. It was discussed to evaluate the extent to which Pastrana may have benefited from their presence within the government structures. Public security was also a topic. They discussed many issues. Now, I do not think it is right to look for an underlying meaning to this and to try and get some sort of advantage from a report of an alleged discussion. I will not meet with the party's nominees until they change their behavior. [end recording]

According to Andres Pastrana, the problem lies in Samper's contradictions.

[Begin Pastrana recording] The issue here are Mr. Samper's contradictions. Fifteen days ago he backed the New Democratic Force ministers and now he wants their heads. He started his campaign criticizing the economic opening and saying it should be a gradual and selective process, but now he says economic opening is irreversible. Just a few months ago he criticized the social security system reforms, and now he supports social security reforms. So, what we see here are Mr. Samper's consistent contradictions. [end recording]

Be this as it may, the decision on whether to remove these ministers lies in the hands of the president.

Discusses Pastrana

PA2011033493 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Ernesto Samper Pizano, a Liberal Party presidential candidate hopeful, in Washington by station announcer Dario Arizmendi in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Text] [Arizmendi] Good morning, Dr. Samper.

[Samper] Good morning, Dario. How have you been?

[Arizmendi] Fine, sir. We have observed the political excitement caused by the EL TIEMPO report on a meeting between President Cesar Gaviria and some of the Liberal Party [PL] presidential hopefuls and former President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala. EL TIEMPO said that Gaviria described as flippant your alleged demand that he remove the labor and development ministers who are Andres Pastrana followers. What are the facts regarding this report?

[Samper] First of all, the meeting at no time was held in the climate of tension and conflict that EL TIEMPO attached to it yesterday. Next, it is not true that President Gaviria labeled our request as flippant. Some of the hopefuls did say, however, that the government's relationship with Pastrana should be redefined. The idea is not to remove any ministers, but to tell Pastrana that he and his followers should take a clear stand in relation to the government. As far as we heard in the past few weeks, Pastrana runs with the hares and hunts with the hounds. For instance, most of Pastrana's conservative deputies voted for the so-called parliamentary subsidies. As soon as the budget was passed, however, Dr. Pastrana demanded that the president not sign the budget into law. Pastrana runs with the hares and hunts with the hounds. In another instance, Dr. Misael Pastrana, Andres' father, detached himself completely from the government's international policy, particularly regarding the restoration of relations with Cuba. What shall we do, then—run with the hares and hunt with the hounds? Basically, I propose that Dr. Pastrana should define the responsibility of the people with him in relation to the government. It is very easy for him to say he cooperates with the government, along with eight or 10 deputies. At the same time, however, all of the people who accompany him oppose the government.

[Arizmendi] You mentioned former President Pastrana, Andres' father. You say Pastrana Sr. detached himself from the government's international policy, particularly regarding the restoration of relations between Colombia and Cuba. One person is former President Pastrana and another Pastrana Arango, the hopeful. Similarly, one person is Juan Carlos Pastrana, director of LA PRENSA

newspaper, and quite another Andres Pastrana. At least this is what the presidential hopeful for the New Democratic Force has said.

[Samper] As far as I can see, we are talking about two brothers and a single true father. We cannot accept, however, that while a candidate's family, which should be more closely associated with him, fires in all directions, the candidate is in agreement with the government, which all of the members of his family are attacking. If a person cannot control his family, how could be run the country?

[Arizmendi] But what does the family have to do with all this? For instance, are your own brothers, Daniel Samper Pizano, Francisco, and all of your brothers campaigning for you and stand by each and every one of your views or can each member of the family have his own views?

[Samper] All of them act as a family, of course. But, if the person involved is influential in public circles, as it happens with former President Pastrana, who is a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, leads a political party, and owns a medium, then he bears public responsibility and cannot run against God because he hopes to run the country. If Pastrana is elected, he would be opposed by his family. Is this logical? I don't think so.

[Arizmendi] With all due respect, who is in the government: Misael Pastrana Borrero or Andres Pastrana Arango, with two representatives, the ministers for labor and development?

[Samper] You will excuse me for setting the record straight. Which forces does Pastrana represent in the government? Only the eight New Democratic Force parliamentarians? Or the conservatives and the various forces that support him? What Pastrana should not do is to swear he is in the government cooperating with President Gaviria but that he cannot speak on behalf of the parliamentarians who follow his instructions in the Congress or those people whom he can influence. This is a way to be and not to be.

[Arizmendi] You are, then, absolutely loyal to the administration of President Gaviria. You have not disagreed with him, even when you were his development minister?

[Samper] I agree it is possible to have disagreements regarding policies. If I hope to run the country, it is logical for me to point out a course for the country, even despite differences, and to tell the government I will emphasize such and such subjects. This is absolutely legitimate and what the people expect from us. After all, this is why they would vote for us. Quite a different thing would be for me to support the government while the people who accompany me undermine that same government. I have not asked the president to remove the ministers, among other things because I cannot do it. That is a sovereign prerogative of the president. What I said is that, if this relationship must be maintained, it must be on firm ground. And what does this firm ground consist of? In that the forces that accompany Pastrana, not as a person or citizen, should play fairly in relation to the government's policy.

[Arizmendi] How does the presence of two ministers and Andres Pastrana in President Gaviria's cabinet cause concern for you and the other Liberal Party hopefuls?

[Samper] They do not cause us concern in any way insofar as they are doing a good job. Now, Andres Pastrana is a better minister than [words indistinct] ministers as political leaders. But, that is a horse of a different color. This does not harm us insofar as that relationship generates for President Gaviria's government greater political strength, or greater parliamentary support, or better public opinion. This is what we are after. For example: What will the Conservative Party's attitude be at the coming convention regarding its relations with the government? It would be interesting to know if a significant part of the party supports Andres Pastrana. If the decision is to support President Gaviria's government, this is welcome. With this decision the government comes out stronger and everyone will be delighted. However, if they are against, what will Andres Pastrana do?

[Arizmendi] Mr. Samper, there are persons who think that you and the other Liberal Party hopefuls seek to cogovern with President Cesar Gaviria so that it is you who will assess if the presence of ministers who sympathize with Andres [Pastrana] is convenient for Gaviria's government. They believe this should not happen because it is the president who should make the assessment.

[Samper] How are we going to cogovern when we are inside, we are part of the government. We helped to elect President Gaviria, we have supported him all along, we are part of the government. One cogoverns when one is in opposition and the [government] responsibilities are shared. We are obviously following closely President Gaviria's government; however, the president will make the decision he considers most convenient. I believed it was my duty—according to my conscience—to suggest that he make this decision based on Andres Pastrana's clear definition of what his commitments with the government are. [Words indistinct] parliamentarians in Congress of the New Democratic Force. [Words indistinct] the Conservative parliamentarians who also oppose the government, the forces of the gentlemen who support him, and even his own family. In my opinion this is the bottom line of the issue. One cannot say that this is a bureaucratic debate. It is not a matter of two ministers leaving or not, this is not the issue. The truth of the matter is that there is a commitment of political loyalty to President Gaviria's government.

[Arizmendi] How would you have reacted Mr. Samper, when your brother Daniel—who writes in CAMBIO 16 [Spanish political magazine]—signed a column in EL TIEMPO stating: Attack President Gaviria Strongly and With Arguments.

[Samper] If that is a column expressing his personal opinion, he has every right. Now, if that is a medium that belongs to us, which we own, such as a television newscast, as the one Andres Pastrana has, it would be regrettable for me as president to have someone on one side supporting me and on the other side having his newspaper or media attacking me.

[Arizmendi] Where, then, is the director's independence and the medium's autonomy?

[Samper] The medium's autonomy could be conceived if it were not owned by a candidate's family, exactly what I have been saying. If it were not owned by the Pastrana family, no one would deny its objectiveness. The trouble is caused by the fact that a candidate possesses his own medium, which is Pastrana's case, while some of us don't have any. It is being debated whether the candidates will be given one or two minutes on the air. But the true issue is whether or not information balance can be maintained, considering that some candidates have their own media while some of us do not.

[Arizmendi] Who should evaluate that objectivity you demand: the government, the Executive Branch, or the public, in other words television viewers and radio listeners, who are the real supervisors of the media's professional attitude?

[Samper] Dario, you are well-versed on the subject. In my opinion, the only way to evaluate objectivity from the standpoint of quality of information is making sure the subject is newsworthy. Unless I produce news, I cannot demand space to publish something that is not newsworthy. In my opinion, that is the qualitative criteria that should prevail. We must also agree, however, that there cannot be objectivity if in a race or competition some candidates have their own media source while others have no means.

[Arizmendi] What would be your attitude in the future if President Gaviria decides to ratify—as he has done thus far with his silence and what he said in a meeting with you—the two ministers who support Andres Pastrana? Will you withdraw from the cabinet?

[Samper] Yes, Dario. I complied with my duty of presenting my recommendations on who should be the conservative or opposition candidate. In our country, we must say things clearly. There will be a progovernment candidate, a Liberal candidate if you may, who will be chosen in internal elections, and another candidate, who will be representing opposition forces. If those opposition forces decide to support President Gaviria's administration, we do not see anything wrong with that, but it should be done publicly, with loyalty, and honesty. That is what I am asking for. I complied with my duty by recommending this. I regret the news leak, which is worrisome from the standpoint of the possibilities that Liberal presidential hopefuls will have in the future to define our positions. Since there was a news leak, however, I want to make my position clear. I am not making a bureaucratic demand. I believe we cannot be with God and the devil at the same time. That is not fair to the country or to the president. Should the president make a decision one way or the other, of course I will support him.

[Arizmendi] Candidate Humberto de la Calle Lombana said he strongly opposed your proposal to unseat Andres Pastrana from President Gaviria's administration. De la Calle said: Samper continues to follow old guidelines. He added that consequently you should not be the candidate because according to him you are afraid of Andres Pastrana.

[Samper] Of course, I respect Dr. De la Calle's position, but I have a different opinion. I would like this campaign to be a fair one, a campaign in which alternatives are presented. For six months I have been loyally proposing to the country a strategy to create new jobs, to fight corruption, to strengthen the agricultural sector. I have also advocated the need to integrate Colombia internationally. Today we can see that everybody here in Washington is happy with the approval of NAFTA. Unfortunately, the conservative candidate has said nothing in that regard, he has not expressed his views yet on any subject. I would like to see some campaigning. That is why I am trying to delimit positions, to make things clear. In that way, two or three months from now, when Colombians elect a new president, people can say: Samper is proposing ways to create new jobs, while Pastrana is proposing some other alternative, so we can choose between this or that. What I want is a country with a solid democracy, with realistic foundations.

[Arizmendi] Maybe you are being more papist than the Pope when you talk about loyalty [words indistinct] the group of Andres Pastrana [word indistinct] president of the Republic, since the head of state seems to be very pleased with Pastrana in the government?

[Samper] That is precisely what he has to evaluate. My responsibility as liberal candidate is to present from my position what should be the rules of the game during the campaign. I am sure the president will evaluate under those terms what should be the demands for loyalty from Dr. Pastrana.

[Arizmendi] Should that evaluation by President Gaviria end with the ratification of the two ministers supporting Andres Pastrana would you uphold your criticisms withdrawing your ministers from the cabinet?

[Samper] Dario, the issue is not whether or not to remove two ministers. The issue is that Dr. Pastrana should define the terms of his relationship with the government. If that definition satisfies President Gaviria, in order to maintain peace I will accept and respect his decision. I would, however, like Pastrana to clearly define the commitments of the forces backing him to President Gaviria's administration. This is not only of interest to the government, but to democracy. It is of interest to the Conservative Party in order to know

where it stands, if it really supports the Gaviria administration or not, and if it really supports Pastrana's program, if he ever makes it known to us.

[Arizmendi] What has Dr. Andres Pastrana told you [two-second break in reception] that he has obeyed, that he has complied, and that the president knows this, that in his opinion the pact is functioning and that unless the president decides otherwise, he plans to continue until the end of [one-second break in reception] of President Gaviria, in the terms agreed on with the president in that agreement [three-second break in reception] it is understood that Andres Pastrana is respecting the rules of the game.

[Samper] Of course. But there is a situation the country should not ignore, that Dr. Pastrana wants to be the Conservative Party candidate, that he has the backing not only of the congressmen of one year ago, when he signed the agreement, but also of other Conservative deputies. During a campaign it is logical and desirable to know if some forces are going to be with God and the devil at the same time, giving Dr. Pastrana the opportunity to disengage himself from the government, as he disengaged himself from some prominent congressmen, when it suits him for elections reasons; or if on the contrary, what will happen is that an agreement will be reached, or that the agreement signed by Dr. Pastrana will be strengthened, so that the people may know on what President Gaviria can count. I repeat: Let him support the evaluation to be made by President Gaviria.

[Arizmendi] With regard to parliamentary subsidies, it is a known fact, you have admitted this to Caracol, that many of your congressmen voted in favor of parliamentary subsidies and others voted against them. Why do you demand total discipline from the congressional forces of Andres Pastrana while yours are pulling in different directions?

[Samper] I am not demanding discipline from the forces of Dr. Pastrana and I would not ask the president not to sign a budget bill that was supported by the majority of the congressmen who back me. I would not do that. This is why in Pereira I told Caracol that I back whatever decision the president is to take with regard to the budget bill. This is my obligation. If I am cooperating with the government, I cannot tell the president: Look, don't you sign this bill, even if it is backed by the majority of the congressmen.

[Arizmendi] But not all the congressmen who support you followed your guidelines. Some of them disobeyed you.

[Samper] Yes, but the fact is that the bill was passed.

[Reporter Judith] Dr. Samper, regarding the social security bill, this is another specific situation: You strictly ordered your congressmen to suspend the debate to carry out more [word indistinct]. But this is a government objective and you are on the side of the government. You have a candle lit for God—you are cooperating with the government—but at the same time you have lit a candle to the devil—you are fighting the social security bill.

[Samper] Do you think, Judith [not further identified], that requesting a more profound analysis of a bill means being against a bill?

[Judith] But you demand outright and total obedience, the same as saying if we are going to cooperate, we will cooperate completely. But right now you are cooperating but do not agree with the social security bill. Anyhow, you have every right not to agree with it and to demand further debate on it. No one is asking you to exhibit total compliance with the president.

[Samper] I repeat: A request that a bill be analyzed and that some people be invited to state their views, which has been done at various forums since that request was made, does not mean being against the bill. On the contrary: The people working for the bill are people who are, as you know, close to my group, such as Dr. Alvarao Uribe and Dr. Fernando Botero. This should be stated clearly. The bill has been improved since the moment it was prepared by the Labor Ministry because of the tireless and courageous efforts by Dr. Alvaro Uribe. When time for voting on the bill comes, it will probably have the majority backing of those supporting me as a candidate. Requests for discussion of a bill do not mean being against it.

[Judith] Dr. Ernesto Samper, we thank you for this lengthy dialogue with Caracol in connection with the political storm unleashed by the request allegedly made by you and other candidates that members of the NDF be withdrawn from President Gaviria's cabinet.

Paraguay

Wasmosy Orders Changes in Military Unit Commanders

PY2011181793 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 20 Nov 93 p 4

[Text] The commander in chief of the Armed Forces, Juan Carlos Wasmosy, on 19 November ordered surprise changes of the commanders of some military units just two days before the beginning of the deliberations of the Promotions Board of the Armed Forces.

Pursuant to general ordinance No. 191 signed by Wasmosy, several changes and transfers were effected in the Armed Forces, leaving two high-ranking military commanders without posts—Division Generals Anibal Rejis Romero and Galo Escobar.

The measure taken by Wasmosy on the eve of the deliberations of the Promotions Board is tantamount to ordering the aforementioned generals' retirement as holding a post is a sine qua non for remaining in the Armed Forces' active service.

Appointments

The president of the Republic has named Brigadier General Iran Centurion as acting commander of the 2d Army Corps to replace Brigadier General Evelio Fabio Benitez Santacruz, who will now head the 3d Army Corps.

One of the most significant changes is the one effected in the Logistics Command, in which Gen. Romero has been replaced by Brigadier General Corsino Allende Serviano. With this appointment, the latter is surely to be promoted to the rank of division general as the post he was assigned to must be held by a division general. Gen. Romero has been left without a post and at the disposal of the commander in chief.

Brigadier General Federico Magno Candia Flores has been appointed as commander of the 3d Infantry Division replacing Brigadier General Juan Simon Paredes Barbeiro. Brigadier General Jose Felix Pavon Gonzalez has been named Chief of Staff of the 2d Army Corps in lieu of Colonel Carlos Alberto Ayala Gonzalez.

Brigadier General Juan Evaristo Gonzalez Maldonado has been appointed chairman of the Military Supreme Court replacing Rear Admiral Andres Ramon Legal Basualdo.

Brigadier General Adalberto Fleitas has been appointed as Chief of Staff of the 3d Army Corps to replace Brig. Gen. Candia Flores. Brig. Gen. Paredes was assigned to head the 4th Infantry Division, replacing Brig. Gen. Fleitas.

Brigadier General Augusto Nunez Gonzalez has been named as Artillery commander to replace Brig. Gen. Allende. Brigadier General Francisco Ableardo Vera Alarcon replaces Brig. Gen. Gonzalez as the new commander of the Marshal Francisco Solano Lopez Military School.

Brigadier General Eligo Torres Heyn replaces General Daniel Guzman Idoyaga as commander of the 2d Infantry Division, while Brigadier General Jose Felicisimo Segovia Boltes will replace Brigadier General Herminio Pinanez as commander of the Command and General Staff School.

The appointment of Col. Ayala as acting commander of the 1st Infantry Division in lieu of Brig. Gen. Torres indicates that the former will be promoted.

Colonel Eulogio Rodriguez Acevedo is to replace Brigadier General Ramon Anibal Garcete as Chief of Staff of the Logistics Command. The latter is left without a post and would thus go into retirement.

The new CIMEE [expansion unknown] Chief of Staff is Colonel Sindulfo Ruiz Ramirez, who replaces Brigadier General Augusto Nunez Gonzalez. Colonel Pedro Hugo Canete Peralta replaces General Jose Pavon as acting commander of the 6th Infantry Division.

Colonel Jose Ovando Villalba has been named acting commander of the 2d Cavalry Division and Colonel Luis Salomon Julian Riego is to replace Colonel Cirilo Velazquez as director of the Recruitment and Mobilization Office.

Colonel Antonio Martinez Lezcano is to replace Col. Ovando as commander of the Acosta Nu No. 1 Military School and Colonel Domingo Guzman Gaona is the new commander of the Presidential Guard in replacement of Colonel Guillermo Escobar Farina.

New Commander of the National War School

By virtue of Special Ordinance No. 121, the Armed Forces commander in chief, Juan Carlos Wasmosy, decided to commission Rear Admiral Legal Basualdo to the National Defense Ministry as commander of the National War School. He will thus replace General Escobar, who is left without a post and at the disposal of the commander in chief.

Colonel Felix Hermenegildo Saldivar Ortega had been commissioned to the Foreign Ministry as military attache to the Argentine Republic in lieu of Colonel Eulogio Rodriguez Acevedo.

Col. Velazquez has been nominated chief of operations of the National Antinarcotics Secretariat that comes under the jurisdiction of the Presidency of the Republic.

Col. Escobar has been assigned to the Foreign Ministry, where he will hold the post of Defense Attache of the Paraguayan Embassy and chief of the Paraguayan delegation before the Inter-American Defense Board in the United States. For all practical purposes this indicates that General Emilio Osvaldo Balbuena, who heretofore held that post, will be given notice of his retirment.

Lieutenant Colonel Horacio Agustin Gomez Rolon has been commissioned to the Office of the President as Air Force aide-de-camp.

General Romero Dismissed

PY2011185093 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 20 Nov 93 p 4

[Text] Warning that there are difficult times ahead for the country and there are scheming generals within the Armed Forces and also urging the military to be loyal to the president and the Constitution, Division General Regis Romero said good-bye to the military leadership this morning on the occasion of handing over the command of the Logistics Command to General Corsino Allende Serviano. Romero admitted that they will retire him soon.

This unexpected change of commanders was made with the participation of Vice Admiral Eduardo Gonzalez Petit, commander of the Military Forces, and the top leadership of our Armed Forces.

In order to justify Romero's firing, Gonzalez Petit indicated that the change was made due to service requirements.

Addressing the Armed Forces officers who attended the ceremony, Romero asked them "to remain united and loyal to the president."

He added that this request was due the fact "the coming times will demand a lot of loyalty from the Armed Forces so that the president will be able to achieve his objectives in our country's first democratic government."

In a brief chat with the media after the ceremony, Romero highlighted the fact that those difficult times will begin with the internal elections of the Colorado Party and the other elections that will follow. "They will be political times," he said.

In his address, he asked those in attendance "to respect the Constitution, the laws, and the military rules and regulations so that the institutionalization and professionalism of the Armed Forces may become a beautiful reality, a popular clamor of those whom we command."

In a veiled criticism of some of the generals who were in attendance, Romero said that "in all of my career I have never used one second to knock on the doors of my superiors in order to incommode, harm or scheme against my superiors, comrades in arms, or those who served under me."

During his chat with the media, the general did not want to provide the names of the scheming generals. He stated that he would speak when he puts on civilian clothes. In this respect he admitted that within a few days the Promotions Board will retire him from active service.

'Harsh' Words Exchanged

PY2011184593 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 20 Nov 93 p 4

[Text] A harsh exchange of words occurred this morning between the fired commander of the Logistics Command, Regis Romero, and Army Commander in Chief Lino Oviedo. Romero told Oviedo that "he had had a lot to do" with his being deprived of this command in order to place him on the retired list. "You have a lot to do with this affair," Romero spat at Oviedo, who could only smile in reply.

This harsh exchange of words occurred when Oviedo approached Romero, while they were going to the latter's former office to sign the transfer of command, to offer his support and congratulate him on the work he had carried out in the military unit.

In a severe tone, Romero said to Oviedo: "Ndaupeichai hina [preceding two words in Guarani] (Isn't that so)," expressing his manifest disagreement with the decision of his superiors.

After the ceremony, Romero was asked to confirm the exchange of words with Oviedo. He denied that he said anything, although immediately stated that if there is a recording of what was said, "publish it."

Peru

Fujimori Says NAFTA 'Important,' 'Beneficial' to Peru

PA2011031693 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Nov 93

[From the "Global TV News" newscast]

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has called for national unity to further strengthen the construction of a new Peru. He did this at the dedication of the 20th Pacific International Fair, the facilities of which he visited for more than an hour.

He appealed to all Peruvians to unite efforts to fight terrorism and to seek development and a climate suitable for foreign investments. He pointed to the Cerro Verde Mine as a result of a united effort. He said this at the dedication of the 20th Pacific International Fair that takes place every year in the country and which this year enjoys the participation of 550 exhibits from various countries.

President Fujimori and Alfonso Bustamante y Bustamante, the president of the Council of Ministers, toured the fair's facilities for two hours. President Fujimori received presents from the various embassies.

At the conclusion of his tour, Fujimori told the media that NAFTA is important and beneficial for Peru's development.

[Begin Fujimori recording] The most important thing is to be ready for the situation, and being prepared means that our market is already open and that our industry is open to world competition. We have made fair progress, not as much as countries that have been implementing this for several years, but in the past three years we made preparations, just in time to be able to try to get into a market of this nature. [end recording]

U.S. Ambassador Ratified Following Incident Settlement

PA2011215693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1759 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Lima, 19 Nov (EFE)—Lima's economic publication GESTION says today that the resolution of an incident between Peru and the United States in 1992 has allowed the ratification of Alvin Adams, the new U.S. ambassador to Peru.

The newspaper, which cites sources from both the Peruvian Embassy in Washington and the U.S. Government, notes that the Peruvian Air Force's underwriter and the widow of U.S. Sergeant Joseph Beard, who died in a plane accident in Peru, have finally reached an agreement resolving a problem that caused tension between

the two governments. On 24 April 1992 several Peruvian fighter planes ordered a U.S. Air Force C-130 plane, which was flying over Peruvian territory apparently on a DEA mission, to land. When the pilot of the C-130 ignored the order from the Peruvian fighter planes, the latter opened fire on the C-130 and Sergeant Beard was sucked out through a broken window, fell into the ocean, and was never found. The U.S. plane finally landed in Talara in northern Peru, and for a long time it was discussed whether or not the C-130 was flying over Peruvian or international waters when attacked.

U.S. Senator Jesse Helms requested that U.S. aid to Peru be suspended until Beard's widow was properly compensated. GESTION points out that Beard's lawyers have refused to disclose the exact amount Peru has paid, but the newspaper estimates it must be over $500,000.

GESTION adds that the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee ratified Alvin P. Adams as the new U.S. ambassador to Lima on 17 November, after Beard's widow received Peru's compensation. The U.S. ambassadorship in Lima has been vacant for 15 months since Anthony Quainton, the last U.S. ambassador, was appointed assistant secretary for Diplomatic Security in May 1992. Adams, who is 51 years old, has served as U.S. ambassador in Haiti and Djibouti.

Bomb Blast Slightly Damages U.S.-Peruvian Institute

PA2111025993 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0228 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Lima, 20 Nov (DPA)—Official reports confirm that tonight's explosion of a briefcase bomb in the U.S.-Peruvian Cultural Institute in the Lima's Miraflores District caused slight damage.

The results of the action could have been worse, because a second briefcase bomb, which failed to go off for unknown reasons, was deactivated by the police bomb squad.

The attack was the latest in the new terrorist offensive unleashed this week in Lima in which three car bombs exploded—all of relatively slight power—and attacks were staged against bank branches, resulting in the death of one person in one of the attacks.

The institute attacked today is an official U.S. institute that primarily engages in teaching English and which has centers in several parts of Latin America.

Shining Path Detonates Car Bomb Near Defense Ministry

PA2011035393 Paris AFP in Spanish 0313 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Lima, 19 Nov (AFP)—The Peruvian National Police have announced that a Shining Path commando detonated a car bomb Friday evening near the Defense Ministry and the Army General Headquarters in Lima, but caused no casualties.

The Shining Path commando, on behalf of its Metropolitan Committee (Lima region), left pamphlets in the area of the attack indicating their intention to pursue the armed struggle they initiated in May 1980.

Attack on Lima Bank Branch Attributed to Shining Path

PA2011213793 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2032 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Lima, 20 Nov (DPA)—A dynamite attack on a bank branch in Santa Anita district in Lima caused considerable damage today, but no casualties, as part of a new wave of terrorism attributed to the Maoist Shining Path organization.

The attack occurred a few hours after a car bomb exploded last night near the Army General Headquarters in San Borja District, causing considerable damage to buildings in the area, including the home of General Jaime Salinas Sedo, currently in prison, who last November led a thwarted coup attempt, was confined.

The wave of attacks with explosives occurred after almost 50 days without actions of this sort. The attacks had ceased after four important Shining Path leaders who are in prison urged followers to suspend attacks, so as not to hinder the dialogue proposal made to the government by Shining Path founder Abimael Guzman, who is serving a life sentence.

Yesterday morning another car bomb exploded in front of a commercial mall in La Molina district, while Thursday night there was an attack on a bank branch in Brena District, which killed one person. The police attributed both actions to the Shining Path organization.

On Wednesday there was a car bomb attack, which wounded four persons seriously in Miraflores district. This attack, however, was attributed to the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), because the attack was on an electrical appliance store, whose owner Raul Hiraoka had been kidnapped by the group.

Hiraoka was rescued by the police last month in a spectacular operation which also involved the capture of Chilean Jaime Castillo Petruzzi, the MRTA's principal leader, and the seizure of a huge arsenal.

State of Emergency Extended in 5 Provinces of Cusco

PA2011211093 Paris AFP in Spanish 1919 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Lima, 20 Nov (AFP)—It was officially reported today that the Peruvian Government extended the State of Emergency for 60 more days, as of this date, in five

provinces of Cusco Department in order to "ease the antisubversive operations" in those areas.

The extension of the state of emergency, established by a supreme resolution that was published today in the official gazette, EL PERUANO, affects the Provinces of Paruro, Acomayo, Chumbibilcas, Canas, and Canchis, where the constitutional guarantees will remain suspended and the Armed Forces will continue to be responsible for maintaining public order.

Since the beginning of the "fratricide war" in Ayacucho, in the Andean southeast, in 1980, over 60 percent of the national territory is under the state of emergency.

Ecuadoran, Peruvian Civilian, Military Authorities Meet

PY1911203893 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 8 Nov 93 p A12

[Excerpt] Tumbes, 7 Nov—Civilian and military authorities from Peru and Ecuador held a meeting this morning in the Ecuadoran town of Huaquillas to coordinate efforts for harmonious coexistence between the Peruvian and Ecuadoran populations in border areas.

Peru was represented by General Jorge Ramos Varillas, the 1st Infantry Division commander; various high-ranking military officers; Customs administrator Enrique Hurtado Macuado; Aguas Verdes Deputy Mayor Walter Lontop; Zorritos Port Authority official Gelacio Vieira Pena; and Tumbes PNP [Peruvian National Police] chief Colonel Segundo Gonzales Gamboa.

Ecuador was represented by, among others, General Telmo Sandoval, the El Oro 1st Infantry Brigade commander; Huaquillas Mayor Francisco Pinzon; Migrations Department chief Major Juan Black; and Frigate Captain Juan Tovar from the Puerto Bolivar Port Authority. [passage omitted]

*Justice Minister Attacks Human Rights Board

94SM0093A Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 21 Oct 93 p A4

[Text] In a letter to Rosa Maria Mujica, executive secretary of the National Human Rights Coordinating Board, Justice Minister Fernando Vega Santa Gadea yesterday spelled out the real scope of Supreme Decree 038-93-JUS. The letter discussed the measure that setting up the National Council on Human Rights and also corrected a series of erroneous statements made by Mujica.

Vega Santa Gadea expressed regret at the decision of Mujica's group against participating in the National Council on Human Rights.

The letter stresses that article five of the decree does not say that the representative for nongovernmental organizations must necessarily be the National Human Rights Coordinating Board.

Thus, the minister says he fails to understand the group's refusal to participate in the council, which it describes as an arm of the Ministry of Justice.

He calls this inaccurate and denies that the National Human Rights Coordinating Board is regarded as a council member.

Umbrella Group

Vega Santa Gadea also says he does not understand why the National Human Rights Coordinating Board should be surprised that the government's decision to set up an umbrella group for human rights. Its aim, he says, is to coordinate the activities of public, private, and international organizations in an all-out defense of human rights in this country.

"Your claim that joining the commission would mean a loss of independence is valid only as a pretext for a steady stream of political statements criticizing the government," the letter says.

It adds that the National Human Rights Coordinating Board itself has acknowledged that the country is still living though trying times due to the 25,000 deaths caused by terrorism.

The minister says that these violations will end completely with the downfall of Shining Path and the MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement].

"We have shown clearly every intention to correct or redress all possible signs or manifestations of abuses of human rights. However, we do not understand how anyone can minimize the grave violations of these rights that occurred during 13 years of indiscriminate terrorist violence against the Peruvian people. Nor do we understand how this can serve as a pretext for asking international financial bodies and friendly governments to refuse Peru credit but to support nongovernmental organizations instead."

"The deaths of 25-thousand innocent Peruvians cannot be easily ignored. Terrorism must be denounced and condemned firmly and courageously without trying to explain it away with pseudo-sociological excuses," Vega Santa Gadea says.

Solutions to Abuse and Violence

The letter recalls that it was the government's decision to maintain a permanent dialogue with the National Human Rights Coordinating Board. This is a sensible approach to solving problems of violence and abuse and, in the process, to honoring international commitments. It pledges continuing contacts with the coordinating board in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

The letter concludes that the Supreme Government Commission will continue the permanent dialogue under the direction of Fr. Hubert Lanssiers as the minister's personal representative. It will do so unhampered by pressures, innuendos, threats, or unreasonable complaints.

* Human Rights Organization Defends Record on Terrorism

94SM0093B Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 25 Oct 93 p 5

[Text of National Human Rights Coordinating Board advertisement]

[Text]

Some Necessary Clarifications

1. The National Human Rights Coordinating Board is distressed by the unfortunate statements of the minister of justice that received widespread media circulation yesterday.

2. The minister overreacted to a letter that simply sought to clear up confusion between high government officials and representatives of the Coordinating Board. At issue is the nature of the Commission for Dialogue, as it now stands, and the recently established "National Human Rights Council."

3. His statements deliberately overlook the many times we have stated—both in Peru and abroad—our opposition to groups that resort to terrorism. This year alone, on 25 February, 2 March, 26 April, 28 April, 15 August, and 21 October, we condemned the acts these groups commit in news stories and paid advertisements. At the same time, we expressed our sympathy for the victims. Whenever savagery has ravaged our country the Coordinating Board has spoken out. It has harshly condemned such acts of violence as yesterday's events in downtown Lima and the murder of Hermilia Ore, director of the Glass of Milk Program in Canto Grande.

4. The minister appears unaware of the many times we have acted on behalf of victims of violence. Although our means are more limited than he suggests, we have provided material support as well as psychological, legal, and medical help for victims and their families. Several organizations for victims' families belong to our organization. The minister is well aware that in dialogues with the government we have filed numerous petitions on behalf of victims. We regret having to say that six months of dialogue under the auspices of his office have achieved nothing.

5. Peruvian human rights organizations once again are concerned deeply by the lack of consistency in the human rights policy of the present government. At the international level, it boasts of talks with the National Human Rights Coordinating Board aimed at seeking respect for human rights in this country. Meanwhile, it launches gratuitous attacks against groups committed to the cause of human rights in Peru.

6. Despite the foregoing, the coordinating board remains open to dialogue, but it is not unreasonable for us to hope that the dialogue produces concrete results. We believe that what truly matters is to achieve justice and peace in Peru based on unqualified respect for the human rights of all Peruvians.

Uruguay

Defense Minister Interviewed on Current Issues

PY2011171093 Montevideo BUSQUEDA in Spanish 11 Nov 93 pp 3, 8

[Interview with Defense Minister Daniel Hugo Martins by unidentified BUSQUEDA reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] [BUSQUEDA] Are you going to charge General Luis Queirolo with contempt?

[Martins] I have not yet decided.

[BUSQUEDA] What does your decision depend on?

[Martins] I have to study Prosecutor Langon's report and assess what such an accusation's chances of success are.

[BUSQUEDA] Does the government intend ...?

[Martins] ... No, this is a personal affair. Those of us who are involved in politics are exposed to criticism by the citizens. Therefore, it is not unusual for someone to allude to the executive branch or to ministers. In a democracy, every person is free to express his opinion, but he ought to do it in a respectful way.

[BUSQUEDA] And has it been done respectfully in this case?

[Martins] The court will decide on that.

[BUSQUEDA] Since assuming office in 1990, President Luis Alberto Lacalle's government has had more conflicts with the generals who were members of the military regime than former President Julio Sanguinetti's administration—General Ivan Paulos' utterances about Lacalle, the controversy involving [Navy Commander in Chief] Vice Admiral James Coates and the Military Club, the request by the Military Clubs themselves that the then Defense Minister Mariano Brito resign. To what do you attribute these situations?

[Martins] You know that I was installed as defense minister on 19 August. I was not a government official during that period and therefore, I do not have firsthand knowledge of what happened.

[BUSQUEDA] The first case I mentioned occurred when you were a minister.

[Martins] Yes, this is publicly known. Its relationship to order number 15 is known.

[BUSQUEDA] That is correct, but why did the lack of harmony develop with the military men ...?

[Martins] Not with military men.

[BUSQUEDA] Well, with the chiefs of the military process. Is it related to ...?

[Martins] The chiefs of the process are retired. They no longer have anything to say.

[BUSQUEDA] By changing the Army commander, has the government been able to solve once and for all the problems that emerged recently in that force?

[Martins] I believe it has.

[BUSQUEDA] Do you believe there was a different orientation in the Army under the command of General Rebollo than under the current command of General Daniel Garcia?

[Martins] The commander in chief is the real chief of the Army and he is acting correctly.

[BUSQUEDA] Do you believe there was a change?

[Martins] I was not part of the previous administration. What I know is that he is acting correctly. I cannot talk about the previous administration because I was not in it.

[BUSQUEDA] What is the state of the investigation of the Artigas Guard and the Lavalleja Command?

[Martins] First of all, it is not known if they exist and second, those who protect themselves in anonymity are very difficult to discover.

[BUSQUEDA] But is the ministry investigating?

[Martins] What kind of investigation can we carry out about something that was published in the press and is anonymous.

[BUSQUEDA] What about the acts of violence that occurred in the country recently?

[Martins] There have been no acts of violence during my administration.

[BUSQUEDA] It is assumed that an investigation must first be carried out.

[Martins] They were investigated at the appropriate time.

[BUSQUEDA] Has the investigation concluded?

[Martins] If something were discovered, it would be made public.

[BUSQUEDA] Are you differentiating betwen the time when you took over the ministry and the previous situations?

[Martins] Yes.

[BUSQUEDA] But you inherited situations that apparently were not concluded. For example, before Minister Brito resigned he disclosed to Congress that the telephones of Army Commander General Juan Rebollo were tapped. Is this still being investigated? Was it left behind or is it still being investigated?

[Martins] In principle, yes. The events that occurred before my administration have already passed.

[BUSQUEDA] Will they be referred to again?

[Martins] I will not refer to them.

[BUSQUEDA] Why?

[Martins] Because they are events that have passed. What effect would an investigation have?

[BUSQUEDA] What about the generals who were involved in espionage? It has been said that General Aguerrondo may be assigned to a new position in the United States, in the Inter-American Defense Council. Is that true?

[Martins] That is speculation by reporters. His name has not been proposed.

[BUSQUEDA] What is the most important task you have encountered since you became minister?

[Martins] The most important is the one I am carrying out with the president to study the reorganization of the Armed Forces based on information given by the three forces.

[BUSQUEDA] What are the guidelines of the reorganization?

[Martins] This is a complex issue. In general terms, the idea is to make the forces more efficient and to reduce spending.

[BUSQUEDA] Efficient in what?

[Martins] In what? Don't you try to spend more efficently in your own home? Do you allow unnecessary spending? Spending the best possible way, achieving the objectives the best possible way, that is efficiency.

[BUSQUEDA] Today the Army is divided into four regions. Is this going to change?

[Martins] This issue is being studied. As is well known, there are some reservations about it because it involves a national defense issue.

[BUSQUEDA] What about the Army's role. Is it going to be redefined?

[Martins] It has already been etablished: It is that of national defense.

[BUSQUEDA] Will it be assigned new duties?

[Martins] The traditional ones.

[BUSQUEDA] Are there any plans to involve the Army in the antidrug war?

[Martins] No.

[BUSQUEDA] In a recent article, the Army commander admitted this possibility.

[Martins] If it is a national defense issue, it will get involved. This possibility is not rejected but this is a police task.

[BUSQUEDA] But to do this you need means. Is the government willing to accept DEA's assistance to combat this problem?

[Martins] This situation has not come up.

[BUSQUEDA] The use of fast deployment forces equipped with helicopters is a possibility in the reallocation of Army forces, is it not?

[Martins] Yes, this is a possibility. The modern trend is for the Armed Forces to act jointly like they did in the Gulf War.

[BUSQUEDA] One of the ways to acquire more equipment is to reduce Defense Ministry expenses on salaries by 70 percent. How will you be able to reduce these expenses?

[Martins] We are studying how to rationalize the Armed Forces in order to have only essential personnel.

[BUSQUEDA] Does this imply the reduction of noncombatant personnel?

[Martins] No, there are other areas where we can rationalize personnel.

[BUSQUEDA] Where?

[Martins] In the different Defense Ministry services.

[BUSQUEDA] Does this imply that the Communications Directorate will be placed under the jurisdiction of the Education Ministry? Are you working on this?

[Martins] No. There is a draft bill in this regard that has been proposed by a congressional committee.

[BUSQUEDA] Do you support this idea?

[Martins] I am not opposed to it. It is a service that can be under the jurisdiction of this Ministry or any other. It is not directly linked to national defense.

[BUSQUEDA] There is a draft bill in congress on regulations for military promotions which calls for an increase in the number of colonels. According to these regulations the promotion of these colonels to the next highest rank will be approved by the Executive Branch. What is the reason for this initiative? Is the executive branch trying to achieve a greater involvement in armed forces internal matters?

[Martins] No, it is merely an effort to have more choice.

[BUSQUEDA] Does this affect the professional career of the military?

[Martins] No, it is the high command that selects its advisors from a list of candidates.

[BUSQUEDA] But increasingly further from the right.

[Martins] That thing about the right has already been.....

[BUSQUEDA] The Battleist Forum has charged this administration with trying to promote the partisanship and the "whitewashing" of the Armed Forces. Are you not justifying these charges with these regulations?

[Martins] Absolutely not because this draft bill will also be in force in future administrations.

[BUSQUEDA] When the new commander assumed his duties he suppressed OCOA [Coordinating Agency for Antisubversive Operations] and instructed information services to fulfill their specific duties. Have you imparted any orders to the Defense Ministry Intelligence Services?

[Martins] No, there are no changes regarding their task which involves studying the international situation. For example, here I have reports about the situations in Rwanda and Georgia.

[BUSQUEDA] Undoubtedly, they also have to act at the domestic level.

[Martins] They also have to act within our borders. They report on everything that occurs in the country. But their orders were not changed.

[BUSQUEDA] What is the significance of appointing a high-ranking naval officer as head of the Defense Information General Directorate as of February?

[Martins] None at all. The rotation of the three Armed Forces branches in this post was already established.

[BUSQUEDA] This was etablished in the "Amnesty Law" but it was never fulfilled.

[Martins] Don't ask me why it was never fulfilled. But now I have imparted the order. The proper thing will be done. I will appoint the new director.

Retired General Sentenced for Insulting President

PY2011001993 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 13 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] Retired General Ivan Paulos was sentenced to eight months imprisonment for insulting the president of

the Republic and the defense minister. Paulos' sentence, however, was suspended and he thus will not go to prison. His police records will be cleared if he does not repeat the offense in the next five years.

Judge Jose Lobelcho on 12 November pronounced his sentence in the trial for "aggravated contempt" against Paulos. The defendant's lawyer appealed the decision, and the Appellate Court probably will call the parties in the next few days for a final review of the sentence.

The sentence fully approved the charges pressed by attorney Jose Luis Barbagelata, taking into account that Paulos had written his "open letter by a soldier" on the subject of pensions for retired soldiers fully aware of what he was doing and the impact it would have on a scheduled Military Center assembly.

In his 13-page sentence, Lobelcho states that if the explanation given by Paulos when he was questioned (on which occasion he signed a document stating that he did not intend to insult the president) were taken into account, "the existence of two letters should be accepted because one act does not match the other."

The judge stated: "There are other facts that lead one to believe that what he said (what Paulos said in his letter) was what he meant," adding that during the audience "he stated—although he had just started to declare—that he would write another similar letter," and he admitted that the document's purpose was to publish it before the Military Center assembly was held. The assembly was going to discuss Defense Ministry Resolution No. 15.

After summarizing the letter's contents, which the court labelled an offense to the president, the sentence concludes: "It is impossible that the person who wrote this letter, with the purpose of it serving as an introduction to the Military Center assembly..., was not aware of what he was doing. Less still when he wrote it and requested that it be published on a certain date."

The judge mentioned that what aggravated the offense was the hierarchy of the public officials who were offended and the fact that it was done through the media.

In the ruling's introduction the judge notes that the trial was an aspect of a "very complex issue because the military situation and the relationship with the official, described in very general terms, suggest a situation that this trial scarcely reflects."

He stated that these facts would not be taken into account in the sentence because, in the strictly legal field, only the aforementioned letter should be taken into account.

Venezuela

Ochoa Signs Agreements With Argentina's Di Tella

PA2011170093 Paris AFP in Spanish 0010 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Caracas, 16 Nov (AFP)—During an official visit to Caracas, Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella on 16 November signed agreements on economic and counternarcotics matters with his Venezuelan counterpart, Fernando Ochoa Antich. They also signed agreements for the reciprocal promotion and protection of investments as well as to prevent double taxation on air transportation. They ratified an agreement to prevent, control, and repress drug trafficking and consumption and signed another agreement to establish cooperation between Venezuela's Pedro Gual Diplomacy Institute and Argentina's Foreign Service Institute. The officials exchanged diplomatic notes that allow the relatives of accredited diplomats to work in each other's countries.

During Tuesday's official visit to Caracas, the Argentine foreign minister met with Venezuelan President Ramon J. Velasquez and his Venezuelan counterpart. Di Tella will return to Buenos Aires tonight.

Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Cited on Joining G-3

PA2011231293 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 19 Nov 93 pA-2

[Report by Jose Figueredo]

[Text] The Ecuadoran Government views with great interest the possibility of joining the Free Trade Agreement being negotiated by Venezuela, Mexico, and Colombia within the framework of the Group of Three [G-3], according to remarks Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Paredes made yesterday during a news conference held at the Foreign Ministry.

The head of Ecuadoran diplomacy stressed that although his country belongs to the Andean Pact, its participation in the G-3 could be more intense, basically at the commercial level, something that would be beneficial to all the members of this economic integration system.

Yesterday morning, Paredes and his Venezuelan counterpart Fernando Ochoa Antich signed two agreements that aim at promoting and protecting investments, as well as issuing business visas. In Paredes's opinion, they will serve to strengthen commercial ties between Caracas and Quito.

During his encounter with reporters, the Ecuadoran official reiterated his message of Ecuadoran support and solidarity for the Venezuelan Government and the upcoming elections, adding that "the 5 December elections will be a landmark of singular importance not just for the sake of democracy in Venezuela but also for the sake of that institution that is so important for Latin

America. The view of Venezuela in Quito is very optimistic. We see a country with major resources, a high caliber business and political leadership. We see a Venezuela that has a great historical future."

Regarding the approval of NAFTA by the U.S. House of Representatives, the topic of the day, he noted it was a historic event, since it will not only benefit its members but also the entire continent, as well the negotiations taking place in the different integration systems that exist in the region. "It sends a very powerful message, and is a step in the right direction toward reinforcing free trade and the broad and open integration of our hemisphere," he added.

The two foreign ministers took advantage of this opportunity to make a joint declaration, reaffirming the interest of the two nations in strengthening their diplomatic ties, drafting a scientific cooperation agreement on energy, and increasing cooperation in the field of culture and other points of interest in bilateral relations.

Government Sends Communique to Colombia on Border Attacks

PA2111162493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2117 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Caracas, 20 Nov (EFE)—President Ramon Velasquez' administration has notified Colombian authorities of its uneasiness about repeated guerrilla attacks in Venezuelan territory that have claimed the lives of five Armed Forces members.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich sent a communique to Noemi Sanin, his Colombian counterpart, reporting that "once again there are victims of an aggression plotted on Colombian territory." President Cesar Gaviria's administration, however, has yet to take any measures in that regard.

Four members of Venezuela's National Guard (GN) were wounded on 11 November when attacked by presumed guerrillas near the border as they travelled in a military convoy headed for Cutufi Post in the rural area of El Nula.

Another attack took place on 18 November in Guafitas, Alto Apure, 890 km from Caracas. A sergeant and four soldiers died.

The official communique states that "the Venezuelan Government regrets that incidents of this nature continue to occur while Colombian authorities fail to adopt effective preventive measures although such incidents have occurred repeatedly in the past."

In the communique, the Venezuelan foreign minister expresses his confidence that [words indistinct] to prevent these regrettable incidents in keeping with its obligations as a state.

Supreme Court Orders Search of Perez' Offices

PA1911230793 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 17 Nov 93

[From "The News" newscast]

[Text] By orders from the Supreme Court of Justice [CSJ], the offices of former President Carlos Andres Perez were searched. Perez' offices are located in the Las Delicias towers on Libertador Avenue.

This morning, while former president Perez was at the burial of the mother of Senator for Life Jaime Lusinchi, a legal measure was authorized by 38th Criminal Judge Nely Murillo and 24th Penal Court Judge Irma Mancilla who, accompanied by judicial officials and prosecuting attorneys from the Attorney General's Office, took from Carlos Andres Perez' offices a number of documents that could be evidence in the process against Perez at the CSJ related to the case of the $250 million of the secret funds.

Once notified of the judicial order, and upon exiting the building, former President Carlos Andres Perez reiterated, as did his lawyer Rafael Perez Perdomo, that the actions of the CSJ, by request from its Substantiation Tribunal, were unbelievable and despicable.

[Begin Perez recording] This is unbelievable; this is an abuse. This is unbelievable and an abuse. First of all, because I am a senator for life and I have the corresponding immunity. Secondly, because it is inconceivable that someone who has been president of the Republic twice and who is a senator for life should be subjected to this kind of outrage.

Here in my hand I have a document that I will file before the CSJ right now, when I am through with you, to protest this abuse against me. [end recording]

Finally, former President of the Republic Carlos Andres Perez went with his bodyguards to the CSJ where he would deliver to the CSJ Secretariat a document in which he flatly rejects the search ordered by the CSJ.

President Assures European Businessmen

PA1911232893 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 17 Nov 93 p D-4

[Text] President Ramon J. Velasquez told representatives of over 3,500 European firms that are members of Fedeuropa, Federation of Binational Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the EEC, that Venezuela's economic modernization will continue, especially with regard to privatization, openness, and the battle against the fiscal deficit.

Coordination and Planning Minister Hernan Anzola stressed that President Velasquez has issued precise instructions regarding the continuation of all the phases inherent in the privatization processes, although the decisive step—granting approval—will be up to the new president.

With the assurance that a change of president of the Republic will not cause a regression in the economy's modernization, and dismissing the possibility of a dictatorial system as an option to resolving the crisis Venezuela is experiencing, President Velasquez responded yesterday to the concerns expressed by the representatives of almost 3,500 Fedeuropa companies.

The concerns of approximately 90 businessmen from the Chambers of Commerce of Venezuela, Germany, Belgium, Britain, Spain, France, Netherlands, Italy, and Switzerland; representatives of such business groups as British Petroleum, Iberia, KLM, Nestle, Bayer, Siemens, Veba Oel, Basi, Bigott, Midland Bank, Air France, Roussel, Alitalia, Fiat, Shell, an so on were expressed in a document read by Fedeuropa President Teucro Tofano.

One paragraph of the document pointed out that Fedeuropa is quite interested in economic continuity; it states: "we are concerned with the growing deterioration of the private investment-friendly climate we had attempted to establish."

Therefore, we would like to point out certain aspects of economic policy and the environment that would favor such a climate: privatization, trade policy, fiscal deficit, personal security and foreign investment.

Fedeuropa referred to each of these aspects:

The cooling down of privatization, which had seemed a solution to the deficit and freeing the state of burden, has left us with great expectations for which we would like a clear and guiding answer. There is a trend toward altering the continuity which until now had been consistent with trade policy, by introducing isolated rules which, in an effort to protect certain sectors, are weakening the overall positive image the country had secured.

The fiscal deficit has increased to the point where urgent measures have been suggested to turn it into an uncontrolled factor, which would not only harm the government's ability to deal with the demand for services but could also become a factor that would increase inflation. Businessmen are asking: if the fiscal laws that have been approved and disclosed are going to improve the deficit, to what extent will they do this and how long will it take?

Daily newspapers and international reports do not believe this serious situation has been resolved; it is a situation that negatively influences foreign investors who must decide whether or not to bring their capital to the country. The situation has worsened lately due to regrettable accidents and to decisions adopted in full sovereignty by the Judicial Branch, which have created a climate of expectation, especially abroad, regarding the legal guardianship of the operational personnel at the companies involved.

It must be underscored that foreign investment has become less attractive in areas that opened up after the fall of the Berlin Wall, which has created interest in the Andean Group countries among which, it is pointed out, Venezuela has comparative advantages.

To conclude, Fedeuropa supported the Velasquez administration "at this very delicate as well as necessary moment for Venezuela's future."

President's Response

In response to these statements, the Venezuelan president recounted Venezuela's economic process, including asides pertaining to the decline of oil prices and the burden of the foreign debt.

He asserted that Venezuela has opened its market because "it needs and favors foreign investment," it has reduced limitations on expansion, and has continued the privatization process.

Regarding this final aspect, the president emphasized that the process continues although approval will be postponed until after the elections.

Government Not To Suspend G-3 Negotiations

PA1911234593 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 17 Nov 93 p E-2

[Text] Miguel Rodriguez Mendoza, minister-president of the Foreign Trade Institute [ICE], stated yesterday he is certain the Group of Three [G-3] negotiations will conclude successfully this year. He added the Venezuelan Government will not suspend them under any circumstances until the new president can resume them, as it happened with the privatization process.

The conclusion of the G-3 negotiations will not be left in the hands of the next government since integration is a state not a government policy and since a commitment exists among Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Colombian President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo, and Venezuelan President Ramon J. Velasquez, the official noted.

The goal of the meeting held last weekend in Mexico City was to conclude the pending negotiations so that the three presidents could proceed to sign the agreement, but that was not achieved because several matters were not resolved. Nevertheless, Rodriguez Mendoza described the meeting as highly satisfactory for all sides and pointed to the intense participation in all the negotiations by the private sector, which in Venezuela's case was coordinated by Pedro Carmona Estanga.

The ICE minister-president did not mention any future date in which the technical and ministerial negotiations would conclude, although he did say it would be this month. He added he is not sure if the agreement has to be submitted to congress for consideration, as far as Mexico and Venezuela are concerned (Colombia has a different system), but if that is so, it will be submitted before the consideration of the Delegated Committee in Caracas, and then it will be forwarded to the congress that is installed on 23 January. Rodriguez Mendoza declined to

give details, but the failure to conclude the negotiations at the expected date certainly delays the process, as we are in the midst of an electoral year, and raises fears the signing may not take place in December so that it can enter into force on 1 January 1994.

Jaime Serra Puche, Mexican commerce and industrial development secretary, Colombian Foreign Trade Minister Juan Manuel Santos, and Rodriguez Mendoza did not discuss the place where the presidents will sign the agreement, although it is known Caracas and Mexico City hope to host the meeting.

"The meeting held last weekend was very productive since progress was made in the areas of services, disloyal practices, settlement of controversies, investments, agriculture, and technical norms. Still pending are the final points on lifting tariffs and the process of asymmetry, as well as the issue of the origin regulations, which is perhaps the most complex of all," the official noted.

On the agricultural aspect, a structure of four lists was established, not based on time periods and tariffs but on the political reality of the countries. This way, there is a list for price ranges, a second for non-tariff restrictions, a third for sensitive products, such as corn, and a fourth that will enter into force immediately in the deregulation program since it faces no major obstacles.

President, Army General Command Discuss Elections

PA1911145593 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 17 Nov 93

[From the "The News" newscast]

[Text] President of the Republic Ramon Jose Velasquez today began a series of meetings with the different military institutions with the firm purpose of guaranteeing the normal development of the 5 December elections.

The president took this opportunity to begin a dialogue with the Army General Command through Army Commander Jorge Isaac Tagliaferro, who was accompanied by the country's division generals.

As usual, President Velasquez accompanied the visitors to the doors of the Presidential Palace and spoke to the media.

First he said that due to the proximity of the elections and as guarantors of the country's constitutionality, he deemed it timely to hold a dialogue with the National Armed Forces about their role in the December elections.

[Begin Velasquez recording] The conversation was very positive and friendly due to the democratic mentality, the professional precedents, and the old ties I maintain with the institution, particularly with its commanders. [end recording]

[Begin Tagliaferro recording] It was a very institutional dialogue. It was simply another way of conveying to the President the institutional feeling that prevails in the Army and in all the Armed Forces. [end recording]

Air Force Reiterates Support for Democracy

PA1911173293 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Upon leaving a meeting with the Venzuelan Air Force Command Staff a few minutes ago, President Ramon Velasquez stated that he is entirely confident that the upcoming electoral process will end satisfactorily and reiterated his belief in our Armed Forces' democratic character.

[Begin Velasquez recording] I invited the Air Force command staff and commander to talk about the historic 5 December event. We agree that it is an event that will attest to our democratic stance and one in which the country will decide on its future because the citizens' votes will give us both a new chief of state as well as the parliament and Legislative Assembly members.

As always, the Air Force is deeply identified with the position—their actions over time have shown this to be true—that the country must follow the democratic process. It has been a long and satisfactory talk, and I received the confirmation of their traditional position: Support for democracy. [end recording]

Authorities Arrest 10 in Raids for Stolen Weapons

PA2011201693 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 16 Nov 93 p D-4

[Article by Eduardo Brando]

[Text] Military sources have confirmed to EL NACIONAL that approximately ten people have been arrested as a result of 62 raids on residences in Caracas and other Venezuelan cities by Directorate of Military Intelligence [DIM] agents. The raids are part of the actions ordered by Defense Minister Rear Admiral Radames Munoz Leon and Caracas Permanent Military Judge Colonel Ramon Moreno Natera.

The raids are reportedly linked to the charges filed Friday by Army Lieutenant Raul Alvarez Bracamonte, who was tried and imprisoned for stealing weapons and ammunition from Fort Tiuna, presumably as part of insurgent actions by the Bolivarian Movement.

Our sources revealed that the arrested people, whose names have not been revealed, will be at the disposal of DIM, which will transfer them to the Second Military Court at the appropriate time. Yesterday it was rumored that Alvarez Bracamonte will again face a military court. This was not confirmed because of restrictions on reporters who want to visit Fort Tiuna.

Yesterday there were high-level meetings at the Defense Ministry to analyze the adverse reactions and the situation that the accusations by Lieutenant Alvarez Bracamonte have produced. Some view the opportunity Alvarez Bracamonte was given to make his accusations as a violation of military secrecy by Minister Munoz Leon and Justice Moreno Natera. Some also say it was a political maneuver to discredit the Radical Cause party and its top leaders.

The attention of the high-ranking military commanders was temporarily diverted to the televised broadcast of the news conference granted by President Ramon J. Velasquez during his visit to the Supreme Electoral Council. The president expressed his moral and institutional support for the top electoral body and spoke with its authorities about the mechanisms and operations that will be implemented by working unceasingly to assure honest and fluent elections and to have the final results as soon as possible.

A full-page, paid advertisement was published in one of the country's main newspapers calling for a noise-making campaign [cohetazo] in support of the Yare prisoners. The advertisement was signed by many important people from various national sectors. In view of such circumstances, the military commanders told our sources that certain restrictions were imposed on public bus services and fares were raised to 61 bolivares for people traveling between Caracas and the so-called bedroom communities of Guatire-Guarenas and Los Teques.

In the capital of Miranda State, policemen went on strike for better social and economic conditions. Response measures are being taken in that regard. The sources said: "The offices of the local mayors and police organizations must be alert, but if there are incidents or public order disruptions they cannot handle, we will resort to the National Guard."

Ten Arrested for Involvement in Subversive Plans

PA1911171693 Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Nov 93

[From "The Observer" Newscast]

[Text] At least 10 people have been arrested for alleged participation in subversive plans. Defense Minister Vice Admiral Radames Munoz Leon made the announcement at Miraflores Palace.

According to Munoz Leon, the raids conducted in Caracas and other cities in the country, far from sowing uncertainty, promote tranquillity among the population in the face of the upcoming elections.

[Begin Munoz Leon recording] These recent actions basically help guarantee the Venezuelan people's tranquillity. Who knows what would have happened if we not taken these actions. Many people are fleeing in disarray. Many plans and groups were dismantled, and that guarantees the tranquillity of the Venezuelan people. [end recording]

Defense Minister on Missing Weapons, Bracamonte Case

PA2011142393 Caracas EL GLOBO in Spanish 19 Nov 93 p 2

[Article by Paola Badaracco]

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Radames Munoz Leon responded that he would not accept blackmail of any kind or by any organization or individual when asked if he would have agreed to exchange weapons for the release of some of the coupist soldiers.

"If they would have asked me to act as mediator for the return of the weapons, I would have done so. For me, what is truly important is not who the finger is pointed at. As far as I am concerned, anyone can be accused. No one man is important to me. What is important to me is that a bunch of weapons can be used against the Venezuelan people," the minister remarked. That, he added, is a matter of concern for me. I am not concerned about political organizations or individuals. The weapons concern me.

He explained that he could act as mediator if it is revealed where the weapons are so they can be recovered for the nation's welfare. Under no circumstances, however, would he agree to what is proposed in one of the letters; that is, to release the coupists in exchange for the weapons. "We do not accept this because the government and the defense minister will not allow themselves to be blackmailed."

The defense minister was also consulted on Bracamonte's transfer to Orchila [jail]. Munoz Leon said Bracamonte was moved because his comrades in the Bolivarian 200 Revolutionary Movement [MB-200] were threatening him. He was moved for his own personal security.

Munoz Leon said Alvarez Bracamonte had been so beaten up at the San Carlos jail that he had to be transferred to the Military Hospital.

When questioned if Bracamonte's statements had been prepared, Munoz Leon replied that was Chavez' opinion. Chavez' credibility, however, is questionable as he is in jail for attacking the Venezuelan democratic system.

Munoz Leon added that he, as minister, has the credibility of having upheld democracy; therefore, the people can choose to believe whomever they wish to believe.

On the raid operations, he indicated that they continue in some parts of Caracas and that the information collected is immediately investigated.

So far 10 individuals have been arrested, but the operation will continue searching for people linked to the MB-200, he noted.

With regard to the Republic Plan, the defense minister explained that it has been launched and that the troop movement would begin between 26 to 28 November.

He commented that the high command's transfer of power will take place after the election campaign period, which is between 2-4 December.

Munoz Leon expressed his concern about the disorder that could arise and about the Armed Forces' actions against people who might create disorder at that time. "We are prepared to combat these types of situations and to avoid them with preventive and repressive measures, if necessary, at the appropriate time. Nevertheless, I believe there will be a strong civic response." [passage omitted]

CSE Authorities Explain Voting System

PA2111213093 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Interview with Dr. Lastenia Robles, information director of the Venezuelan Supreme Electoral Council, CSE, by Antonio Jose Urbina, an independent member of the CSE, at the CSE headquarters in Caracas; from "The News" newscast—live]

[Text] [Urbina] Dr. Robles, how will the Venezuelan people vote on 5 December?

[Robles] Very easily. Voters will have two ballots: one to vote for president and another to vote for legislative bodies.

[Urbina] How will we vote for president?

[Robles] On the ballot for president, the voter will mark a single candidate of his choice. He cannot mark more than one because to do so would nullify his vote.

[Urbina] And how will we vote for legislative bodies?

[Robles] For deliberative bodies we have five ballots. You must mark one ballot to vote for the Senate. There are two ballots to vote for deputies; mark one of them to vote for the political parties' lists, and mark one card to vote for the uninominal candidate from your circuit, using the candidates' name and surname.

For the Legislative Assembly we also have two ballots. One ballot to vote for the political parties' lists of candidates, and another to vote for the uninominal candidate from your circuit, using the candidate's name and surname.

[Urbina] Does this mean that we, the voters, will really vote six times?

[Robles] Yes. One vote for president and five votes for deliberative bodies. These ballots come in groups of five and they list the candidates by political party. Voters can combine the many different options presented or they can vote for the same political party on the five ballots.

President Announces Wage Scale for Public Workers

PA1911201493 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 17 Nov 93

[From "The News" newscast]

[Text] President Ramon Jose Velasquez today announced the new wage scale for public employees, which will take effect on 1 January. Here is Cecilia Pachano with a report.

[Pachano] President Velasquez made the announcement accompanied by ministers in charge of drafting this new scale, which raises the starting salary for support and administrative personnel from 6,000 to 27,000 bolivares. The starting salary for skilled technicians will rise from 17,500 to 36,000 bolivares, and for professionals from 19,000 to 40,000 bolivares. The presidential measure includes a 30 percent increase for workers whose retirement pensions are lower than 10,000 bolivares and a 20 percent increase for those with pensions of 10,001 bolivares or more. The wage adjusiment measure will benefit some 200,000 employees working in 72 government institutions and will require an allocation of 40 billion bolivares in the 1994 budget.

[Begin recording] [Velasquez] The new wage scale brings wages received by public employees into line with those received by private sector employees and enables the government sector to compete in recruiting the most talented workers. Other significant decisions that will accompany this financial adjustment measure include raising hiring standards for administrative staff, establishing a competitive hiring and promotion system for all employees, and adopting other measures designed to eliminate patronage and promote efficiency and productivity. This in turn will help develop the career service, improve the quality of public services, and strengthen the Venezuelan state.

[Labor Minister Luis Horacio Vivas] Regarding participation, solidarity, harmony, and other things not specified in this decree for other sectors... Well, I believe that in practice each sector should try to harmonize all effects of any actions on salaries.

[Unidentified reporter] Will the private sector also implement this measure?

[Vivas] The private sector is not considering this measure, and, as I have said repeatedly, the private sector should, through negotiated agreements, adjust its own wage scale.

[Alejandro Ocarrana, director of the Central Budget Office] The public sector's wage scale is currently at the same level as the private sector. Summing up, the private

sector wage scale lies between 25,000 and 50,000 bolivares, and the government's planned wage scale for its employees averages 40,000 bolivares. Therefore, it is now up to unions and workers to answer this government initiative appropriately. [end recording]

[Pachano] Wages for public employees had not increased since 1991. The wage adjustment decree approved today seeks to end the brain drain experienced in the government sector. This decree will take effect on 1 January 1994, and the wage increases will first be paid in March.

Former Investment Fund President Found Dead

PA1911172193 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1638 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] We have a last-minute report: The body of Cesar Manduca, former president of the Venezuelan Investment Fund, was found on the road leading to Tovar neighborhood in La Victoria, Aragua State. Manduca had been shot in the head and his body totally burned. He was found underneath his Century vehicle.

Manduca disappeared approximately three weeks ago while driving in northern Caracas. Judicial Technical Police and forensic officials are conducting the necessary investigations to determine the cause of death and other pertinent details.

Copei Candidate Supports Privatization Postponement

PA1911151693 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 17 Nov 93

[From "The News" newscast]

[Text] Oswaldo Alvarez Paz, presidential candidate for the Social Christian Party, Copei, said he agrees with the government's decision to postpone the privatization of some state institutions until the next mandate.

[Begin Alvarez recording] I think the privatization process will have to be reformed and deepened. We will have to be very careful with the income it produces. We estimate that it will generate approximately $5 billion over the next few years, but those are funds that Venezuela will only receive once. Those resources will have to be managed very seriously and used to support productive activities or to pay off some of the public debt. [end recording]

Correction to Fund President on Suspension of Privatization

PA1811153293

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Fund President on Effect of Suspension of Privatizations," in the 18 November Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 75: Column one, make sourceline read: ...Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 16 Nov 93 p A-3... (correcting sourceline)

Guyana

Finance Minister Plans New Arrangement With IMF

FL1911193093 Bridgetown CANA in English 1536 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, 19 Nov, CANA—Guyana plans to seeks a new arrangement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) when the current programme ends next month, Finance Minister Asgar Alli said Thursday.

Speaking to CANARADIO Alli said: "The way the Guyana debt situation is going, we have a bit of burden and therefore we will have to spend at least another two to three years with IMF programmes because as you know the IMF provides the umbrella to get that relief."

Alli said the Guyana programme which ends December 31, was one of the toughest implimented in any Caribbean Community (Caricom) state.

He said the programme was filled with both pains and gains for the country.

"The adjustment has been very very hard, and it has virtually wiped out the middle class in Guyana and has left a significant cut in real income of the workers.

"On the other hand, the economies are more market oriented as a result of a substantial amount of investment and...growth in the country in 1992 where the growth has been eight per cent and in 1993 at around eight per cent per annum," he added.

But the finance minister said there was a long way to go.

He blamed the previous government for the country's run-down infrastructure, arguing that electricity and water services, roads and the country's education system were in shambles.

He said multilateral agencies had been injecting millions of dollars to reverse the decline.

"Over the last year I have been able to work with international agencies and certainly government, the IMF, the World Bank, the IDB (Inter-American Development Bank), the CDB (Caribbean Development Bank) to put in place over 300 million U.S. dollars of aid, of grants and soft loans to rebuild the infrastructure, and to rebuild the country."

"So what we have in Guyana for the first time, we are now rebuilding our infrastructure and the economy is growing and I think that is one of the good sides," Alli added.